



The Grapevine

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
15 N. Church St., Thurmont, MD 21788
Number 73 November 2014

From the Pastor

I'm just back from a vacation in Disneyworld with my family, so my head is still packed full of images of dancing princesses, talking animals—and of course that tune, “It’s a Small World After All” is still playing in my mind. This is supposed to be the “off” season there but the parks were still very packed—so we were all very glad that my oldest daughter took it upon herself to do what the rest of us didn’t really take seriously—plan out our days. She spent months ahead of time figuring out “rope drops” (when you can dash in and be the first on the scene), staying up ’til midnight to snag “fastpasses” as soon as they became available (which allowed us to wait in much shorter lines for attractions), and of course, finding reservations for 10 people for meals with princesses (the Disney characters as well as the four granddaughters all dressed in their princess costumes). She had it all so well in hand that the rest of us simply just asked her, “what do we do next?” and we were happy to follow her lead. Her sense for what would be good for us to do paid off and if you ever want to go to Disneyworld—I suggest consulting my daughter on how to get the most out of your experience!

“What do we do next?” is the question I asked you all last month. For the couple months before, we put into words “who we are” and “why we are here.” The responses I saw—e.g., we are God’s children, a welcoming community, a people looking for God’s direction, and that we are here to spread God’s word, to live out our faith, to show God’s love to others—revealed that there’s a strong sense of who we are and why we’re here—and so, there is no one better qualified to answer that question, “what do we do next?” than the people of St. John’s who have that strong identity and purpose in this church.

Someone outlined what we are already doing, such as offering two styles of worship and ministries like the Food Bank, Preschool, and the Thespians that reach out to the community. Through our social ministry work, we have become more involved with those most needful in our community by offering dinners and events that they would otherwise not be able to experience. We now have a Prayer Kiosk in a prominent place where anyone can submit a prayer request via e-mail, using a medium that is accessible and comfortable in the 21st century.

These are specific, visible, evident actions we take that show the world just who we are and, more importantly, who the God we worship is. Other responses were that we can pray, be intentional about inviting others, and be trained to be even more welcoming. All these actions are signs that faith is alive, and are the best witness possible to our faith.

Faith is often considered a private, inner sense, but it can’t help but show on the outside. Martin Luther famously disliked the epistle of James because he thought that James 2:26, *For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead*, would mislead people into thinking that they had to earn their way to God’s love by their actions. But just as you can count on seeing a living person breathe, you can count on seeing faith revealed in actions. I didn’t need to ask my granddaughters if they were happy to be at Disneyworld—it was obvious! I don’t need to ask if an act of kindness or service is from God—I think that’s obvious, too.

I'm so grateful to have had time simply to have good fun with my family. Disney does that well. I'm grateful for each of you, too, because you do your faith well and God's love shows. Keep looking for those places where you can let your faith show! Small acts—smiling at a stranger in the next pew, asking the waitress in the restaurant if you can pray for her, offering the new neighbor a lift to church or the grocery store—can be mighty instruments of grace in God's hands.

Blessings to you as we begin November with All Saints Sunday, remembering those saints who showed us what faith looks like; continue on to Thanksgiving for our many gifts from God; and end the month with anticipating Jesus' advent into our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Susan



CHOIR PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

<u>Performances</u>	Nov. 2	All Saints
	Dec. 7	Advent
	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
	Feb. 1	Epiphany
	Mar. 1	Lent
	Mar. 29	Palm Sunday
	Apr. 5	Easter
	May 31	Trinity

Rehearsal Sundays

8:45—9:45

Nov. 2
 Dec. 7
 Jan. 4
 Feb. 1
 Mar. 1
 Apr. 5
 May 3

Rehearsal Sundays

9:45—10:35

Nov. 23, 30
 Dec. 14, 21
 Jan. 18, 25
 Feb. 15, 22
 Mar. 8, 15, 22
 May 10, 17

Wed. 7:00

(Tentative)

Dec. 3
 Dec. 17
 Jan. 28
 Feb. 25
 Mar. 25
 Apr. 1
 May 27

*The choir always welcomes new voices!
 If you are interested, simply show up at a rehearsal.*

This month is full of special Sundays at St. John's! . . .

November 2: All Saints Sunday. Along with our Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Orthodox sisters and brothers, we take a day to remember the saints both still among us and those who have passed on to eternal life. We will commemorate those who have passed on with a candle lighting during the service (one service at 10:45, followed by a pot luck luncheon)

November 9: Deborah Schmitt from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be here to give a presentation during the Sunday School hour on "Faith and Finances." ALSO November 9: the Women of the ELCA Frederick Conference will be having their meeting here at St. John's at 1:30. There will be a musical presentation, a Bible study by Pr. Susan and light refreshments.

November 16: Kenya Medical Mission Sunday. In July, three of our members—Lisa Riffle, Betsy Miller and Kathrin Muegge—participated in a humanitarian trip to Kenya to bring much-needed medical care to those living there. During the Sunday School hour on the 16th, they will report on the work that the Mission Team undertook, complete with slide show. Come hear about this extraordinary experience and demonstration of God's love in action!

Also on the 16th: Ecumenical Worship Service at St. Catherine's at 2:30. Join us as we "take church on the road" and lead worship for the residents and families at St. Catherine's in Emmitsburg. Help is always needed with the service as well as with transporting residents, and your presence makes it a more worshipful experience for those present. Let Pastor Susan know if you can help, or simply show up.

November 23: Christ the King Sunday and Congregational meeting after the second service with lunch.

November 30: First Sunday in Advent.

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FELLOWSHIP PROVIDERS' SCHEDULE

JANUARY: *Thurmont Thespians*

FEBRUARY: *Social Ministry*

MARCH: *Worship & Music*

APRIL: *Neighborhood Niche*

MAY: *Evangelism*

JUNE: *Fellowship*

JULY: *Women of the Church*

AUGUST: *Fundraising*

SEPTEMBER: *(Picnic)*

OCTOBER: *Youth/Sunday School*

NOVEMBER: *St. John's Preschool*

DECEMBER: *Church Council*

The provider of the month will bring the main dish
(sandwiches or whatever dish desired).

NOTE: There is interest in having a class on being a more intentionally welcoming congregation. If you would like to take part, please contact Pastor Susan.

OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS . . .

Bible on Tap: Thursday, November 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at the Shamrock pub. Bring your Bibles and enjoy an evening of lively discussion and beverages as we continue our study of the book of Revelation.

Also on November 6: At 6:30 p.m., Trinity Methodist Church in Emmitsburg, members of the Emmitsburg Council of Churches' "Team Kenya 2014" will share slides and stories and make an interesting report about our service trip to Kenya this past July. Thanks to everyone . . . and bring a guest to listen to our story--to the Glory of God! For information contact Pastor Jon Greenstone at 240-888-8861.

Friday, November 7: Opening night of "Noises Off" at the American Legion. See page 7 of this *Grapevine* for complete details.

The ELCA Women of Frederick County will meet here at St. John's on Sunday, November 9, at 1:30 p.m. They have asked us to bring health kits. These go to people who have lost everything and will provide a means of keeping themselves clean.

Each kit contains:

- 1 bath towel, not too heavy, dark colors preferred
- 2 bars of bath-size soap in original wrappings
- 1 toothbrush in original wrapping (if you buy several in a package you can put the extras in a legal-size envelope)
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clipper

(Wrap all these items in the towel and tie with ribbon or yarn.)

You can buy the items for an entire kit or whatever you want and we will put them together. You may also donate money and we can buy what is needed to complete the kits. Thank you for caring for those in need. If you would like to know more you can go to the Lutheran World Relief website and click on kits.

Food Bank Thanksgiving Dinners: As you shop for your holiday groceries, please remember those in need in our community. We will be collecting the following items Sundays in November: boxes of stuffing, canned mixed fruit, canned mixed vegetables, canned yams, and boxes of Jello.

Calling all Chili cooks! The Social Ministry Team will be hosting a chili dinner for the Food Bank clients on Tuesday, December 9. We know there are great chili cooks here (we've tasted it!), so please plan to make some chili, cornbread, or mac and cheese and make this a wonderful dinner for those who need it most! Volunteers to help serve will also be needed. Contact Pastor Susan if you can cook or help.



THAT'S NOT FAIR!

(from the column entitled *From Olives to Apples*)
by Ann Marie Bezayiff

"That's not fair!," several fourth-grade students complained. They'd missed several homework assignments and had to make them up during a special play day.

The former corrections officer turned fourth-grade teacher pointed to a sign posted on a bulletin board, "Life's not fair. Get used to it."

I think we'd all agree that life isn't fair. Otherwise we'd all be rewarded for our diligence, hard work, paying taxes, and following the rules. Luck, influence, special treatment and connections wouldn't have a place in such a perfect world. No room for slackers or deadbeats either.

Have you ever had the thought that God is unfair too?

That's how the early Christians must have felt when they heard parables like the landowner in Matthew, chapter 20. The landowner went out in the early morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. As the day progressed he returned several times to hire more workers, even to the eleventh hour, but at the end of the day, the laborers were paid the same wage irrespective of actual hours in the fields.

Again Jesus takes one of our cultural norms and turns it upside down. Who would pay workers identical wages regardless of hours of work completed? What businessman could afford to be so generous or naïve? How would workers feel about equal wages for unequal time and effort?

My grandfather was raised in a villa in Italy, where for centuries the male head of his family went into the nearby village and hired workers each day. My mother's first cousin, now in her 80s, took me to the village square where the laborers gathered in the early-morning hours, each hoping and praying for work and each depending on the favor of the landowner. A little bowing and scraping probably helped.

She shared with me how her great-grandfather, grandfather and father selected only the best and hardest-working men to work their vineyards. Others were hired only if necessary, like during the harvest season. Wages, of course, were determined by the landowners.

An elderly woman stopped us on our walk and shared her praise for my great-grandfather. Her grandfather was one of the selected workers which meant her family always had food on the table. I doubt that either the landowner or the favored workers would've liked the parable either.

Of course, this parable is not meant as a literal guideline for Christian business practices, but rather a lesson on God's unlimited grace and love for all. His love is given freely: to the first and the last, to those first on the scene and latecomers, to the poor and the outcast of society. Churched or unchurched, it doesn't matter.

"Rationally," we think, "shouldn't we have to earn it?"

That's a pitfall we fall into all too easily. But we know that the grace of God is not earned but given freely. All we have to do is accept it. Good news for us; his way is so unfair but so generous too.

"... But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am so generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:13-16

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS: November 13 and December 11, 2014

Council Highlights — October 9, 2014

- Old Business:**
- a) New boiler inspection is complete.
 - b) Parsonage physical condition and repair costs were presented/reviewed by John. A motion to make repairs, replace appliances, rugs, paint and clean up was unanimous.
- New Business:**
- a) The Nominating Committee will be nominating candidates to serve on the Church Council for 2015-2017.
 - b) Traci Getz will trouble-shoot our “Church Windows” financial reporting.
 - c) Budget Committee will meet and prepare the new fiscal-year budget for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, December 23.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Donovan, Secretary



PRESCHOOL NEWS

The three- and four-year-old children will have their pictures taken on November 6 and November 7. The four-year-old children will take a field trip to Fountain Rock Nature Center on November 12.

Preschool will be closed for Thanksgiving break beginning Wednesday, November 26. School will resume on Monday, December 1.

Looking ahead, the Preschool Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 14.

News from the THURMONT THESPIANS

Colorfest Granny's Attic

Last year's rainy weekend taught us that having Granny's Attic inside is the way to go. This year was a reiteration of that lesson. We had tons of stuff and the volunteers kept making it look so pretty that everyone kept buying away! We even had lots of furniture and bikes in the parsonage carport and on the sidewalk that sold as well.

Bottom line is that we ended up \$2,000.00 richer for our theatre endeavors – biggest Colorfest ever!! Then we got it all hauled away and cleaned up in jig time Saturday afternoon. Many thanks to everyone who helped, bought, supported and commiserated as we toiled.....

Especially our heartfelt thanks to Debbie and Darlene who cleaned up the stuff we resurrected from the parsonage carnage.....enough said!!

"Noises Off"

Directed by Mike Brown

November 7,8,9,14,15,16

New curtain time at night is 7:30

Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

This is a hilarious farce you don't want to miss so make your reservations early by calling Becky Urian at 301-271-7613. Tickets are still \$15.00 for the show and \$35.00 for the Dinner-theatre experience on Saturday, the 15th, at 6:00 p.m.

This show is in three acts so come prepared for anything – British accents, door slamming, and so much more. Farce is a wonderful form of theatre everyone loves – try to guess what is coming next – sardines, black sheets, cacti, hidden bottles of booze or a fireax threatening one character after another Is it possible to run up and down stairs with your trousers around your ankles? Where did the gold taps come from?? Who is pregnant?? And who is having an affair with whom????? Did that set really turn completely around?? How did they do that?? Are they having a party or a rehearsal??

THE THURMONT THESPIANS PRESENT



By Michael Frayn

Directed by Michael Brown

November 7, 8, 14, & 15 @ 7:30pm • November 9 & 16 @ 2:00pm

\$15 per person

Dinner Theater November 15 @ 6:00pm • \$35 per person
(Dinner and show included)

Thurmont American Legion Auditorium

8 Park Lane, Thurmont, Maryland



Call 301.271.7613 for RESERVATIONS

www.facebook.com/ThurmontThespians

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

You will have the answers to these questions this month if you come see "Noises Off" at the American Legion Auditorium.

Remember: Curtain is 7:30 for evening performances!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS

Marie Seiss
Janet Heckert

Luke Bradley
Dorothy Stowell

Jane Tresselt
Beth Watson

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Dale Wireman—friend of Debbie Ayers
Roy Stonesifer—family of Jen Wathen
Larry Haga—family of Becky Smith
Joseph Reed—family of Becky Smith
Jeremy Hahn
Kevin Orndorff—son-in-law of Debbie Ayers
Michele Myers—niece of Harriet Valentine
Rick Baker—brother of Darlene Fogle and Debbie Ayers
Andrea Scotto—friend of Spahrs
Kelly Heath—daughter of Belle Grimes
Jesse Wolf—son of Belle Grimes
Jacob and Edna Matthias—parents of Belle Grimes
Rev. Frederick Simmel—former Pastor of St. John's

Jane Tresselt has been admitted to St. Catherine's Nursing Facility, 331 S. Seton Ave.,
Room 220, Mountainview Wing, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Cards would be appreciated.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Willhide	11/03
Michael Lewis	11/06
Sarah Getz	11/08
Marie Skillinger	11/08
Sam Miller	11/09
Alex Hauk	11/10
Brian Smith	11/10
Beth Watson	11/14
Justin Stull	11/17
Rachel Johnson	11/18
Stephen Hauk	11/22
Cheriann Toms	11/22
Dina Fox Davis	11/23
John Brown	11/28
Tom Fox	11/29

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tracey Bradley	12/02
Ken Angleberger	12/07
Kate Donaghue	12/07
Douglas Favorite	12/09
Janet Heckert	12/11
Tyler Hauk	12/13
Jack Hobb-Myers	12/14
Betsy Miller	12/17
Kelli Donaghue	12/19
Robert Myers	12/19
Kyle Mueller	12/20
Sam Royer III	12/22
Kevin Lewis	12/26

November 2014

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	ASSIST MIN	LECTOR	WELCOMERS	ALTAR
11/2/14	<u>10:45 a.m.</u> *	S. Dart	G. Spahr	B. & J. Urian	G. Angleberger J. May
11/9/14	8:30 a.m.	S. Brown-Hobbs	B. Grimes	L. & N. Riffle	G. Angleberger J. May
11/16/14	8:30 a.m.	K. Muegge	M. Skillinger	J. & C. Ford	G. Angleberger J. May
11/23/14	8:30 a.m.	L. Riffle	S. Brown-Hobbs	D. & D. Valentine	G. Angleberger J. May
11/30/14	8:30 a.m.	J. Ford	C. Fraley	Dart Family	G. Angleberger J. May

* 11/2/14 -- Acolyte: O. Dart

SING & REJOICE SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	WELCOMERS	PRAYER
11/2/14	10:45 a.m.	<u>ONE SERVICE — Traditional at 10:45 a.m.</u>			
11/9/14	10:45 a.m.	C. Muegge	R. Johnson	C. & J. Muegge	C. Kreitz
11/16/14	10:45 a.m.	K. Donaghue	M. Donaghue	T. & A. Mumm	G. Spahr
11/23/14	10:45 a.m.	C. Kreitz	S. Getz	T. & A. Hauk	M.B. Johnson
11/30/14	10:45 a.m.	G. Spahr	A. Mumm	C. Fox M.L. Royer	K. Donaghue



****Please Note ****



*If you cannot be present on the assigned date,
be sure to trade with another assistant. Thank you!*

NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 a.m. ONE SERVICE TRADITIONAL	3	4 6 Food Bank	5	6 7:00 Bible on Tap - Shamrock	7 3 Food Bank 7:30 <i>Noises Off</i> at the American Legion	8 7:30 <i>Noises Off</i> at the American Legion
9 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 1:30 ELCA Women's Meeting 2:00 <i>Noises Off</i> at the American Legion	10	11 6 Food Bank	12	13 7:00 Church Council	14 3 Food Bank 7:30 <i>Noises Off</i> at the American Legion	15 7:30 <i>Noises Off</i> at the American Legion (Dinner theatre at 6:00)
16 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 2:30 Service at St. Catherine's 2:00 <i>Noises Off</i> at Am. Legion	17	18 6 Food Bank	19	20	21 3 Food Bank	22
23 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice <u>Annual Congregational meeting following lunch</u>	24	25 6 Food Bank	26	27 Thanksgiving 	28	29 2:00-9:00 Myers Family--use of Fellowship Hall
30 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice						

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 7:00 Bible on Tap - Shamrock	5 3 Food Bank	6
7 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 a.m. ONE SERVICE <u>SING AND REJOICE</u>	8	9 6 Food Bank with Chili Dinner	10	11 7:00 Church Council	12 3 Food Bank	13
14 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 1:00 Preschool Christmas Program	15	16 6 Food Bank	17	18	19 3 Food Bank	20
21 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice	22	23 6 Food Bank	24 7 p.m.— FAMILY SERVICE 10 p.m.— CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 	26 3 Food Bank	27
28 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 a.m. ONE SERVICE "HYMN SING"	29	30 6 Food Bank	31			

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President: John Brown

Web Site: www.saintjohnlutheran.org

St. John's Preschool: 301-271-4109

Chairperson: Stacey Brown-Hobbs, 301-271-2390

Registrar: Marie Skillinger

Email: stjpreschl@aol.com

Thurmont Thespians

Beth Watson, 301-416-0864

Email: beth.watson@myactv.net



St. John's Evangelical

Lutheran Church

15 N. Church Street

Thurmont, MD 21788

"Loved by God ... to love others!"

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Pastor: Rev. Susan Beck

8:30 AM Traditional Worship

9:40 AM Sunday School, all ages

10:45 AM Sing & Rejoice Worship



Please submit articles for the

December 2014 Grapevine by

November 20.