



NOVEMBER



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On **Sunday, November 13**, immediately following our Worship Service we will hold a meeting to vote on the 2012 budget. As always, the finance committee has done a great job at trying to keep our expenses down. You will be receiving a copy of the proposed budget in the mail. We need all of you to attend the meeting prepared to discuss and vote on the budget.

We will also be discussing and voting on a change in one of our staff positions. In consideration of our finances and needs of our congregation, we propose to change the 20 hour per week Director of Discipleship position to a 10 hour per week Youth Leader position. You will also be receiving a copy of the proposed job description in the mail. We hope you will plan to attend the meeting.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tues. November 22nd—7pm—Messiah Lutheran Church

A time for the Church in Point Place to come together and give thanks for "the riches of God's grace that he has lavished upon us." (Eph. 1:7)

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Weekly Schedule:

SUNDAY

- 9:15am Church School
- 10:30am Worship Service
- 11:30am Coffee Hour

Wednesday

- 12:00N Bible Study

Thursday

- 8:00PM AA & Al-Anon



MOMENT WITH THE MODERATOR

Holy Cow! The holidays are practically upon us! Where does the time go?

Like most of you, I'm trying to figure out how to juggle everything. My calendar is filling up and I'm pooped already; but I keep thinking about a little girl I met during one of our Feed My Sheep dinners. She was about six or seven and struggling to pour herself a glass of water. Before I could get to her, she had the glass filled to the brim and was attempting to add ice. Well, after we mopped up the flood, we started over. I suggested we try putting the ice in first and then the water. She smiled at me and gratefully accepted the glass.

As I add yet another note to my calendar I wonder how it will all get done and then I remember my thirsty friend and her ice cubes. I think I can learn a lesson from her little mishap, too. Maybe if I put the important things in first with God's help, everything else will fit, I won't be so overwhelmed and my cup won't spill all over the place. Of course, it'll take a lot of prayer to figure out what's most important but God and I will work on that together.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. As you make plans I hope you will think about my little friend and be able to relax a little more and be thankful for all the things in your life, both big and small.

Leslie Geletzke



I'm sure in these hard economic times some of you must feel that we're always asking for money. Among our numerous charities we have "Feed Your Neighbor" and "Feed My Sheep" but this time I'm asking you to help feed our own. For as many years as I can remember, we have collected money for Thanksgiving and Christmas "baskets." They used to be baskets of food but have evolved into grocery store gift cards. These gift cards are given to our Church family members who are struggling and can use a little help during the holidays.

Jim and Donna Armstrong have graciously collected the monies and distributed the gift cards to those Church members who are in need.

Last year, we spent a total of \$700 on both Thanksgiving and Christmas gift cards but unfortunately, we only collected about \$300. Several years ago a very generous member, who wishes to remain anonymous, gave \$2,000 to assist in feeding our friends during the holidays. Jim and Donna have very judiciously cared for the funds. However; with rising costs and greater need there isn't any money left.

So, I am, once again, asking you to dig deep. Prayerfully consider those friends who may not have a happy Thanksgiving or merry Christmas if we don't help to provide the food for their table.

If not for the grace of God, goes me.

Leslie Geletzke

ELIZABETHAN NEWS

The October 3rd meeting was well attended and much excitement was shown prior to the slide show presentation by Rev. Rainey and Gene Finnegan. Preceding this, a wonderful array of cookies and treats were prepared by Doris Towers, Lois Fallon, Jackie Shaw and Betty Debth for our enjoyment. Sandy Cast brought in some luscious cake and cookies too, so our sweet teeth were very satisfied.

Rev. Rainey's comments and slides of his and Gene's voyage on the Neva and Volga Rivers in Russia were fantastic and interesting. The cathedrals and churches they viewed were very beautiful and ornate, most topped by turrets. Many took years to build and one surprisingly was never used. An interesting note was made that all who attend services must do so standing up. There are no benches provided even though most services are many hours long. We're thankful to John and Gene for sharing the highlights of this grand voyage with us.

No business reports were made that evening other than Bonny Beebe saying we received a check from Meijer's Community Rewards Program for \$103. Please remember to use your rewards card when shopping there.

The next Elizabethan meeting will be Nov. 7th at 7 PM.



General Fund		
2011	SEPTEMBER	Year-to-Date
Expenses	\$16,595.02	\$102,325.68
Income	\$7,406.50	\$86,367.99
Difference	(\$9,188.52)	(\$15,957.69)



At the September meal we welcomed 138 to enjoy our hearty casseroles – a new record. The distribution of household paper products, bread and pastries and baby items was greatly appreciated by our clients.


As we prepare for our October meal of roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, bread and butter, peaches and pumpkin mousse for dessert we look forward to November (Editor’s note: 169 meals were prepared and served for our October meal!). On November 29th we will serve chili, corn bread, garden salad and assorted desserts. Stop on down from 5-7 pm to help serve or let us know if you are available to make a delivery to one of our homebound members! Food donations should be left at the church by Sunday, Nov. 28th.

The “take away bag’ focus for November is first aid/ personal care products — bags will include 1 box of Band-Aids, 1 package of throat lozenges/cough drops, 1 package of Q-tips, cotton balls. Please consider leaving a pre-made bag or items for a bag on the table in Paterson Hall.

Added in Sept – the Little Lamb table – families can receive baby essentials for their “Little Lamb” on a first-come-first-served basis as supply allows. Available are baby related products.

Sign up sheets are available in Paterson Hall if you are interested in volunteering or donating, or you may call Tina Mockbee 419 276 0637 or Lori Winne 734 848 4120 for more information.

**In October,
The Living Memorial Fund
has received Gifts from:**



**IN MEMORY OF
ROSEMARY LYTLE**

Gerry Ellis
Betty Debth

**IN MEMORY OF
DON LEISTER**

Gerry Ellis
Betty Debth

THANK YOU for your GENEROSITY!

You can be a part of this program by.....

Volunteering

to help set up for the dinner

to help cook the food

to serve during dinner

to help with clean up

to deliver a meal to a church member's home

Donating

food and supplies

cash for the purchase of perishables

DONATIONS NEEDED IN



Corn Muffin Mix

Can of Kidney Beans



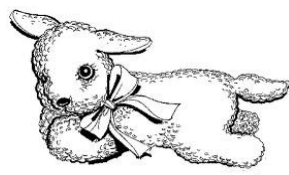
Take-Away bag items

Band Aids

Throat lozenges/cough drops

Q-tips

Cotton Balls



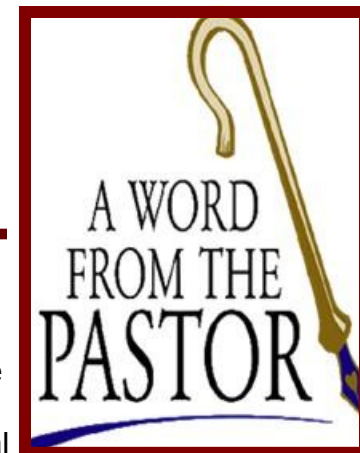
Little Lamb Table

Diapers in various sizes

Wipes

Baby shampoo

Baby Lotion



For a couple summers during and after college, I worked for a landscaping company. While there is something quite fulfilling about the work at times, let's just say it never really made me question my pastoral calling. The company I worked for had a group of guys who had been landscaping for a number of years. They were skilled with various techniques and tools in ways that I was not. Once I got over my pride, I realized that I actually enjoyed doing some of the "grunt work" where I could just put my head down and spend a couple hours digging a ditch or hauling rocks or mulching. "Just keep working" worked for me.

"Just keep working" works for me sometimes as a pastor too. I can be a very task-oriented person, putting my head down and knocking out tasks like worship/sermon preparation, meetings, Bible studies, and visitations. I can—quite efficiently—"just keep working" until the tasks are done for the week, and then start over next week...

Which is why I need the Thanksgiving holiday. Contrary to what many Christians think, God is not a task-master who wants us to "just keep working," getting the job done as perfectly and efficiently as we can. God is a God of relationship, a God of community. Though they certainly do require work, relationship and community are not "just keep working" kinds of things. In light of that, one of the classic spiritual disciplines is Celebration. It is a discipline because of how easy it is to give into lives of despair, discontent, and disconnection—to put down our heads and submit to the daily grind. If you think about it, Celebration is really a radical way of life.

To be honest, Celebration is not one of my strong points. As a pastor, however, I cannot afford to ignore the practice of Celebration. Celebration is essential to relationship and community, both of which—again—God is really into.

As I shared last month during worship, one of the ways God has blessed us this year is an improved financial status. Our expenses are down a bit, our giving is up, and God has allowed us to open up a portion of formerly Endowment monies “just in case.” I also feel richer now in my second year here as I have come to appreciate so many of you in your dedication to each other, to the work of this congregation, and—most importantly—to Jesus and his Kingdom.

So I write this article as part of the discipline of Celebration. It’s a discipline, but that doesn’t mean it’s not from the bottom of my heart. The discipline here is taking time to “just STOP working,” lift up my head, and express the gratitude and joy that I really feel.

The discipline here is also in silencing the voice in my head that is whispering, “*If you tell them things are better financially, they’ll stop giving,*” and instead responding to a different Voice: a Voice that won’t let the real problems we face in this world keep us from Celebrating when we are witness to the work of God like growing generosity in our hearts and providing for us. For as receivers of the greatest gift of Jesus, in whom we have redemption and resurrection, Celebration is our last word and way of life.



MISSION BOARD



MISSION 1 – What is it?

ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. This is MISSION: 1.

Over 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.

Imagine 5,300 UCC churches converted into storehouses of meat and bread, fruits and vegetables, soap and diapers for neighbors in our local communities. Conjure an image of overflowing baskets of peanut butter, cereal, tuna and beans waiting for delivery to shelters and pantries. Envision hundreds of UCC members purchasing pounds of food online for the most vulnerable across our nation and world. This is MISSION: 1

Mission: 1 will take place from 11.1.11-11.11.11. Our congregation will participate by counting our Feed Your Neighbor food items towards this ultimate goal of 1 MILLION.

Save The Date....

We have volunteered to serve lunch at St. Paul’s Community Center on Saturday, December 17. Anyone interested in helping to prepare or serve the meal is welcome! More details will be provided as we get closer to the date.

Ericka Winne

Feed Your Neighbor offering in November will be a friendly competition of the Ohio State vs. Michigan fans! Choose a team and let's see which side can bring in the most non-perishable food items! All donations from the months of October and November will count towards the UCC Mission 1 project. We will tally the number of items donated and add our count to the United Church of Christ's total goal of 1 million food items. All food donations will continue to be given



The Giving Tree collection for November and most of December will be a focus on Christmas gift items for teenagers (ages 13-18). Mustard Seed helps area families during the holidays provide presents to their children. There is always a shortage of gifts for the teens. Gift ideas may include: lotions, hair accessories, nail polish, \$5 gift cards, card games, board games.

Please leave your gift items on the Giving Tree table in Paterson Hall.



Thanks to the handful of men and women who braved the brisk Fall Saturday morning (10/29) and helped make Tent City a day of hope for those in our community who struggle to find it on a daily basis!



October Blog Review

You can find Pastor Jon's blog at www.pointplaceucc.com/blog. Here are some of October's highlights. Please take a moment to share your own thoughts either online or with Pastor Jon:

Sept. 30, *Human Trafficking, Prostitution, and Sex Work Conference* "It's amazing that a conference could almost move you to tears of despair and fill you with hope. The despair comes from the havoc sin, violence, lies, greed, and despair are wreaking on so many lives. The hope is in hearing about how awareness, collaboration, and passion are growing to join God's healing work."

Oct. 25, *The Story of Jobs: an American icon* "Steve Jobs' story was an extraordinarily rare intersection of many of our culture's favorite stories. He was the perfect storm or cultural narratives."

Oct. 28, *Things the Bible Doesn't Say* "There are lots of things the Bible doesn't say, which is one thing. There are a number of things that many people assume, think, or wish the Bible said that it doesn't, which is a whole other thing. It's these common 'additions' to the biblical text I'm going to examine in this sporadic series."



FUNDRAISERS



The Board of Christian Ed is sponsoring a German Dinner. The dinner will be held in Patterson Hall on Saturday, November 12, 2011. The dinner will be at 6:00pm and include entertainment. Adult tickets are \$12.00 and children 12 and under are \$8.00. The menu will include Brats, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Green Beans, and Apple Crisp. Members of the Board of Christian Ed will be selling tickets ahead of time, but tickets will also be available at the door. All proceeds are going to our camp scholarship fund. Please see or call (419-290-8134) Donna Serviss for tickets.



Our Polish Dinner/Silent Auction was again a success even with a much lower attendance than last year. We made a profit of \$1700 that went to the church's general fund. We would like to give a big thanks to all of the members who spent a number of hours helping prepare all the food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Thanks also go out to our talented members who donated items for our Silent Auction and the members and friends who supported our dinner. Our Blessings, Kathy & Bob Placzkiewicz

DIACONATE NEWS

VETERAN'S TO BE HONORED—November 13th



The Board of Diaconate is seeking pictures of veterans for a Veterans Day honorary service on November 13th. If you have a veteran or current service member in the family, please send a picture to the church office and we will scan the picture and return it to you. Electronic pictures are great too!

Please include the individual's name, approximate year of the photo, branch of the service and relationship to the sender. Photos of all veterans, either living or deceased, peacetime or wartime are encouraged. Electronic files can be sent to tmockbee@mcanwo.org. Thank you for your service and your pictures!

GO "GREEN" FOR THE ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS SEASON –



JOIN US FOR THE HANGING OF THE GREENS!—November 26th, 9 a.m.

The Board of Diaconate invites all church members and friends to participate in decorating the church for the advent/Christmas season. Deck the halls (and sanctuary, narthex, lounge) with festive meaningful décor to brighten the church during this important time. No previous experience needed! Many hands make light the work – so mark your calendars for 9:00 a.m. Saturday, November 26th and help decorate your other "home" for the holidays! Coffee, juice and donuts will be available to help motivate the interior decorators.



POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM



Poinsettias may be purchased for \$8.00 to help decorate The Sanctuary during the advent/Christmas season. Funds received after 12 plants have been purchased will be donated to the PPUCC General Fund.

If you would like to take a plant home following Christmas Eve service please indicate below:

YES - I would like a plant to take home.

Donation amount: \$ _____

Plants purchased in Memory of:

Plants purchased in Honor of:

Purchased by: _____

Address service
requested

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*To care for one another
as God cares for us.*