**Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church LC-MS**

Monthly Newsletter --- November 2022

699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

Phone: 724.347.3620 (Opt. 2, Pastor Deal; Opt. 3, Office)

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“THE ROCK and THE SWORD”

“Built upon the Rock of Christ and wielding the

Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.”

**From the Pastor:**

**Useful Applications of Scripture (Part 2): Reproof or Warning**

*The following is the second in the series of “Useful Applications of Scripture”. Part 1 can be read online in the October issue of our newsletter (*[*www.saintspeterandpaul.net*](http://www.saintspeterandpaul.net)*).*

In this article, I will now address the second of the five-fold uses of Scripture: reproof. “Reproof” or “warning” deals with refuting false prophets and doctrines. If there is only one *right* way to teach something, there must be endless possibilities of *wrong* ways. Teaching the faith is not all singing Kumbayas around the campfire together. Sure, there exists a certain level of Christian charity that we ought to have for one another, but false doctrine is a serious matter which leads many away from Christ and His Church.

As we explored last month in the article on “doctrine,” the words which we have in the Bible are not our own words and, therefore, are not our own teachings;  they originate from God who has made them known to us. Thus, when someone teaches falsely in the name of the Lord, he ought to be rebuked, and those who may have heard it or have opportunities to hear it, ought to be warned.

When the teacher refutes false teachings which arise from misuse or in opposition of the text, he is building a strong defense for his hearers. Godly-teaching requires the teacher to make his people aware of not only false teachings, but also of false teachers, even calling some of them by name so that one may mark and avoid them.

* 1 John 4:1 *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world”.*
* Galatians 5:10 *I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.*
* Matthew 16:6 *Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”*
* Revelation 2:15 *Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*
* 2 Timothy 2:17–18 *And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.*

Luther certainly had something to say about the preacher who would not build up his people’s defense against false doctrine and teachers: “A teacher who is silent about errors and nevertheless wants to be a proper teacher is worse than an overt enthusiast, and he does more damage with his hypocrisy than a heretic. He cannot be trusted.”

Though this use of Scripture is not typically the overarching theme of most sermons or Bible studies, it does have its right and proper place. The longer a pastor remains with a congregation, the more opportunities he should have to explain the differences in doctrines between denominations and so guard his sheep from straying through proper warning. Likewise, the more time one spends within the Scriptures, the more he should pick up on how passages have been misused.

God grant us all to faithfully make use of His Word and, too, that He guard us against all false teaching and perversion of it.

In Christ,

Pastor Deal

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**Thank You for Serving in November:**

**Head Elder:** Jonathan Baisch; **Assisting Elder:** Barry Nelson; **Altarware:** (Before service) Diane Riefstahl & Marie Flaugher (11.27); (After service) Kati Laird & Traudi Sulek

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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 10.23.2022 $184,320 (92.16%)

Orange: Remaining

$15,680(7.84%)

**Total Contributions**

**as of 10.25.2022:**

**$150,811 (75.41%)**

**Previous: $132,600 (66.30%)**

**New: $18,211 (9.11%)**

**Remaining: $49,189 (24.59%)**

**It’s not too late to submit a Capital Campaign pledge card!** Pledge cards are available on the table outside Pastor’s office. If circumstances have changed and you need to update your pledge card, please see Jonathan Baisch. Updated pledges help our Trustees plan more effectively and efficiently.

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Submissions for the December issue of **“The Rock and the Sword”** newsletter are due to the secretary’s office Monday, November 21st at noon. This includes meeting dates and times for the church calendar.

**TRUSTEES’ UPDATE**

 **By Mike Flaugher, Chairman**

Trustees met October 19th to discuss on-going maintenance and Capital Campaign projects. With quotes in hand, recommendations were made to Church Council for companies to complete the replacement of the Food Pantry kitchen floor and masonry repairs. Trustees were not able to come to a consensus on who should complete the courtyard landscaping and mold remediation in the attic of the old church. Instead, trustees decided to defer these decisions to Church Council and, subsequently, the voters.

 Several general maintenance projects have been recently completed including repair to the mailbox post and painting of the handicap ramp entrance on Clover St. The hot water circulating pump has been installed, and the Fellowship Hall exit door outside light has been replaced.

 An appliance repairman was here to assess the Fellowship Hall kitchen stove and oven (recommends replacement) and the refrigerator in the Food Pantry.

 Upcoming projects include the installation of storm windows in the main hallway and inspection of the boiler system. Saturday, December 17th has been selected for decorating the church for Christmas.

 If anyone should note any items needing maintenance or repair, please be sure to notify the trustees.

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**Word of Hope: 1-888-217-8679**

The only 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL Hotline that is distinctly Lutheran, bringing healing found in Christ, to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion.

**CELEBRATING IN NOVEMBER!**

**Birthdays**

Maria Marks 11-02

Jerome Thomas 11-03

Rev. Arthur Baisch 11-10

Judith Furey 11-10

Jeffrey Sutton 11-12

Patricia Voytik 11-23

Edward Zachar 11-25

Elizabeth Shreffler 11-26

Paul Andolina 11-29

\*If birthdays or anniversaries have been omitted, please let the church office know. Thank You!

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***Please keep the following***

***in your prayers:***

Nancy Robertson

P.O. Box 1358

6 Stone Ridge Blvd.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-977-0107

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Viola Sakony John XXIII, rm 248

2250 Shenango Valley Freeway

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-272-1905

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Rudy & Jean Tomko

2629 Romar Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-979-4360

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Betty Ann Wolf

7777 Arthur St., SC

Masury, OH 44438

330-448-1080

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Ed & Millie Zachar

1320 Old Forge Rd.

Niles, OH 44446

330-652-9316

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**REMINDER:** Please let the church office know of any changes to your address, phone, cell phone or your e-mail address!

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**FOOD PANTRY RENOVATIONS CONTINUE**

The work on the Food Pantry kitchen renovations is progressing! Walls have been washed and painted, and holes have been patched. Plans for the new floor have been discussed by the Trustees and Church Council and will be brought to the Voters’ Assembly this month.

 We continue to be blessed with volunteers doing the bulk of the renovations along with packing and distributing boxes to our clients. Additional help can always be used! If interested in getting involved, please speak with Barry Nelson.

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**SCRIP Program:**

The next date for **SCRIP orders and payments** is Sunday, November 6th. Plan ahead and get some Christmas shopping done! Checks should be made out to Sts. Peter & Paul’s and are to be given to Matt Berent or placed in the offering plate. You should receive your gift cards the following week.

Forms for ordering gift cards are available in both the narthex and on the parking lot entrance sign-in table.

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**AED ON SITE**

On Thursday, October 6th, our new AED (Automated External Defibrillator) device was delivered! Received through a grant sponsored by the Buhl Regional Health Foundation, the AED can be used in emergency situations when someone is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. (According to the American Red Cross, sudden cardiac arrest is among the leading causes of death in the United States.)

Pictured: Kateri Linn (Buhl Regional Health Foundation), Philip Rozic (UPMC), Ana Deal, Pastor Deal, Jerry Krivosh, Linda Tomko, Marie Flaugher, Barry Nelson, and Mike Flaugher.

Eight members of our congregation (Pastor & Ana Deal, Mike & Marie Flaugher, Jerry Krivosh, Barry Nelson, Diane Riefstahl, and Linda Tomko) were in attendance that day and received training from an EMS supervisor representing UPMC. The device is very user-friendly as it verbally walks you through what to do.

 Following the training session, the AED was installed by the south, side door entrance to the narthex. This placement allows access to all who use our facilities.



EMS Supervisor for UPMC, Philip Rozic, instructs those present on how to use the AED device.



**Sts. Peter & Paul’s to Host Wine Tasting Event to Benefit**

**Willow Women’s Center**

Join us Saturday, November 5th from 4-6 pm in our Fellowship Hall for a wine tasting event to benefit Willow Women’s Center!

 Come learn about different wines as we share fellowship while learning about the important work being done by Willow and its exciting plans for the future.

 Profits from the event will go toward matching the $2500 Life Grant received from the LC—MS.

 If interested in attending the event, please sign the sheet in the narthex or phone the church office (724-347-3620, opt. 3) by noon Thursday, November 3rd. Admission is $10/person.

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**OUR FOURTH QUARTER**

**LOCAL MISSION:**

**WILLOW WOMEN’S CENTER**

Willow Women’s Center, currently located in Transfer, PA, is a non-profit organization which assists women facing unplanned pregnancies with quality medical services at no cost. The Center does not promote or provide abortions. The organization is funded by individuals and grants.

Sts. Peter & Paul’s has long had an association with Willow Women’s Center. In fact, Pastor Deal currently serves as Vice President of its board.

Please join us this fourth quarter in supporting the work done by this center.

More Information can be found at **www.willowwomenscenter.com**

*Let’s help protect the most innocent among us!*

**Mission Outreach Project…**

**International Christian Literature Distributors, Inc.** focuses on getting the Bible and study materials to learn the Bible into the hands of Christian leaders in the least-fortunate places of the world. They supply churches and schools of Bible learning throughout the English-speaking world. Copies of old Portals of Prayer are greatly appreciated **Please recycle items by dropping them in the basket in the hallway by the offices. Thank you!**

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**Please continue to save pop tabs!**

Collected tabs may be given to Marie Flaugher or left on the table in the library.

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**Interested in**

**Joining the**

**Choir?**

If interested in joining the church choir, please contact Chris Nelson (724-866-1640). Plans are being made for rehearsals in preparation for the Christmas season.

 All voices are needed! Come join in the fun!

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**Coffee Fellowship is November 13th**

Join us following worship, Sunday, November 13th for **Coffee Fellowship**! November’s sponsor is Catherine Carr.

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**LIKE & FOLLOW our Church’s Facebook page (Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church)!**

Remember to like, comment, and share to help us reach as many people as possible.

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**We were chosen!** By directing designated Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible Thrivent members choose where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating Lutheran nonprofit organizations and congregations.

 **Many thanks** to Thrivent Financial member **Mike Flaugher** who recently directed Choice dollars to our church!

Did you know that, as a Thrivent customer, you are eligible to apply for $250 **Action Team grants**? Please consider letting the church office know if willing to do so for special projects. The process is simple and the office will help you through it!

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**A Way to Help**

**Others Stay Warm**

**Concordia Youngstown** will be distributing warm socks, gloves, coats, hats, and scarves during its Food Give-Away on December 17.

Your donations of any of these items will help support our brothers’ and sisters’ work in the Youngstown community.

If you would like to help, please place your donations in the box in the church narthex by Sunday, December 11. Please direct any question concerning this to Matt Berent.

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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** An **Audit of Deposits** will take place following worship, Sunday, November 27th in the library. take If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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Remember the

following in prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** Amy, Gerald Arthur, Ellen BaronCA, Lois BortnerCA, John Burdette, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Kathleen Coughenour, Kim, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, Joseph Fleet, Eddy Furey, Tim Haenftling, Austin Hamilton, Anson Holcroft, Neil Huston, Darla Krajci, Barbara Kreske, Michelle KellyCA, Donna Kennedy, Gerald Krivosh, Jess Lavoie, Paul LucasCA, Sandy Marshall, Ernie Meszaros, David Nelson, Linda Parkany, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Nancy RobertsonCA, Viola Sakony, Marty Scott, Kara, Fred Tonty, Angela WeserCA, and Ruth Wolf.

**~The Homebound:**  Rudy & Jean Tomko, Betty Wolf, and Ed & Millie Zachar.

**~Serving in the Military:**  Curtis Sinewe and Joshua Solyan.

**~Community & World Needs:**  Those suffering from or affected by the coronavirus; those suffering due to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia; those suffering from loss and dislocation because weather disasters; those suffering from addiction and their families; Local, State, and National Government Leaders; safety for all Police Officers, Firefighters, & First Responders; the unemployed; our Fourth Quarter Local Mission: Willow Women’s Center.

*\*CA represents cancer.*

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**REMINDER:** If you would like someone’s name to be added to or deleted from our prayer list, please put a written note in the secretary’s mail slot by the office door.

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**OCTOBER BIBLE MEMORY VERSES**

**FOR ADULTS**

**October 2:**In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. John 16:33

**October 9:**Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:12-13

**October 16:** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

 Romans 8:13

**October 23:** You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Matthew 10:22

**October 30:**Let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. 1 Corinthians 7:17

**FOR CHILDREN**

**October 2:**Our Savior Christ Jesus …abolished death and brought life and immortality to light. 2 Timothy 1:10

**October 9:**He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

**October 16:** This commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:21

**October 23:** Know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Matthew 9:6

**October 30:**“The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.” 2 Timothy 2:19

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**VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY**

**The next Voters’ Assembly**

**will take place**

**Sunday, November 21st**

**following worship.**

Agendas will be available November 14th.

Your attendance will be appreciated.

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**2022 OFFICERS, BOARDS,**

**and CHURCH WORKERS**

* President: Jonathan Baisch
* Vice President: Matt Berent
* Secretary: Diane Riefstahl
* Treasurer: Rebekah Baisch
* Financial Secretary: Dolores Fee

Trustees: Cheryl Fedele, Mike Flaugher, Anson Holcroft, Henrietta (Hank) Holcroft, Michael Laird, Jesse Riffle

Auditors: Bev Chlpka, Marie Flaugher, Elizabeth Haenftling, Kati Laird, Jerome Thomas

Financial Staff: Rev. Art Baisch, Susan Bender, Joani Rice, Nancy Robertson

Custodians:Ana Deal and Cheryl Fedele

Organists: Catherine Carr and Chris Nelson

Church Secretary: Diane Riefstahl

At our Voters’ Assembly later this month, it will be time to elect our 2023 officers and boards. Please prayerfully consider serving if asked.

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**Altar guild news**

The following items were discussed at the October 8th meeting of the Altar Guild:

* Judith Furey provided the contact information of a wood craftsman to be consulted about making a display case for our Remembrance book. Marie Flaugher will set up a possible meeting with him.
* The Paraments and Vestments committee continues to make new altar linens for our usage. We are indeed blessed by their talent!
* Retired banners were delivered to Eileen Burns for donation to Christ Lutheran Church in New Castle.
* The polishing committee met in mid-October.
* The annual Ladies’ Luncheon will be held Saturday, December 3rd at 11 am. Those attending may bring a guest and are asked to bring a salad to share. Invitations will be issued at the beginning of November with sign-ups due by November 27th. Attendees are also asked to bring a wrapped gift, valued between $10-$15, for a random gift exchange.
* Several items have been forwarded to the Trustees for possible repair/replacement including the eternal flame in sanctuary, stove in kitchen, and IronRite mechanism in room 4.
* Election of officers was held. New officers (beginning November 2022) are President, Marie Flaugher; Vice President, Elizabeth Haenftling; Secretary, Elizabeth Loughan; and Treasurer, Evelyn Baisch. Thank you, ladies, for your willingness to serve!

**Altar Guild Reminders!**

* Altar Guild members are asked to return their “How May I Serve” sheets to Marie Flaugher ASAP. Schedules for 2023 need to be made and are based upon your responses.
* If any member of the congregation, who is not a member of the Altar Guild, wishes to assist with the cleaning of communion in 2023, she is asked to contact Marie Flaugher by mid-November so that she may be added to next year’s schedule.
* Altar Guild members will be providing homemade Christmas cookies at the December 11th Coffee Fellowship. A sign- up sheet will be available at the next meeting and, then, posted on the bulletin board by the library. Take home boxes of cookies will be available for those who would like.
* The next Altar Guild business meeting will be Saturday, November 12th beginning at 11 am. There will be no Bible Study until 2023.
* At the November meeting, a vote will be taken regarding our 2022 charitable contribution. If you have any suggestions, please let Marie know before the meeting.
* 2023 Bible Study and meetings will take place on the third Saturday of each month with Bible Study beginning at 1 pm and the business meeting following at 2 pm.
* Dues for the 2023 calendar year are $25 and may be paid to Treasurer Evelyn Baisch. Please make any checks out to Sts. Peter & Paul’s.
* New members are welcome to join us anytime!

**ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM (ADF)**

St. Peter and Paul’s is a member of the Alliance Defending Freedom. Monthly, we hope to provide you articles addressing the types of cases ADF is involved in. The following is a synopsis of the article “Fending off The Increasing Attacks on Parental Rights,” from Faith & Justice August 2022 Volume XV, Issue 3.

**How ADF is helping to**

**Defend Parental Rights**

We assume that parents have a basic right to raise and control their children’s upbringing. Across America though, particularly in public education, this has been under attack. School boards have been adopting policies which shut parents out and which are based on ideologies antithetical to our Christian faith. These ideologies include Critical Race Theory (CRT), which espouses that America is fundamentally racist, and gender identity curricula which teaches that children can choose whether they want to be a boy or a girl. If students have expressed an interest in being the other sex, schools have encouraged and forced staff to use the other sex names, pronouns, and even use of opposite-sex bathrooms.

You might think this is only occurring in California or New York, but please consider the following example. In Wisconsin’s Kettle Moraine School District, a 12-year-old girl told her parents that, after Christmas break, she wanted to return to school using a male name and pronouns. She had been struggling with anxiety and depression, and now, when questioning her gender, the school district was encouraging her to say she was a boy. Knowing how dangerous this could be to their daughter, the parents contacted school officials and informed them that the school should continue to use her legal name and female pronouns. The school officials refused.

The parents moved their daughter to a private school to protect her and, just two weeks later, her gender confusion resolved. The affirmation of these false ideas by the public school led the girl astray.

The Alliance Defending Freedom has formed a center for parental rights which is currently focused on public school policies which oppose or compromise the parents’ ability to raise their children and keep things hidden from them. Forty-seven states do not allow parents to review learning materials and activities before they are taught and 12 states do not allow parents to review or be involved in their school’s sex education curriculum.

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**Church Office Hours for November** will be Mondays and Thursdays (8:30-4:30) through November 17th.

 The week of Thanksgiving, the office will be open Monday and Tuesday (8:30-4:30).

 During the last week of November, and throughout Advent, the office will be open Mondays (8:30-4:30), Wednesdays (8:30-noon; 1-5 pm), and Thursdays or Fridays as needed.

 Please call ahead if needing someone to let you in to the church in case the schedule changes.

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**All Saints’ Day**

**Divine Service**

Please join us for a Divine Service Tuesday, November 1st at 7 pm as we fondly remember those members of our church family who have passed from this world to their heavenly reward.

This year, we will be remembering

**Anne Colt**

(*July 31, 1932 – November 24, 2021)*

**Marion Roberts**

(*May 14, 1933 – February 1, 2022)*

**Robert Sulek**

(*July 16, 1946 ~ January 23, 2022)*

and, from **All Saints Lutheran Church**,

**James Hower**

(*May 15, 1951 ~ January 25, 2022)*

**Garnet Stephenson**

(*December 6, 1936-October 2, 2022*)

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There will be a special **Thanksgiving Eve Vespers Service** held Wednesday, November 23rd, beginning at 7 pm.

 Church offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day, November 24th.

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It’s time, once again, to place orders for **The Lutheran Witness**. Subscriptions cost $10.90 (same as last year!). Checks may be made out to our church. Please place payments in a pew envelope labeled with your name and note that it is for the LW. Orders are due to the office on or before Sunday, November 13, 2022.

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**To listen to Pastor Deal’s sermons, phone 724-347-3620 and press Opt. 6.**

**REMINDER:** If you do not have an email account or do not receive emails from the church but wish to be notified of significant information concerning your fellow church members (such as births or deaths), please put a note in the Secretary’s mail slot asking to receive a phone call. Every attempt will be made to phone you within 24 hours of an email being sent out.

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**Sunday,**

**November 6th**

(Move your clock *back* one hour!) **llllllllllllllllllllllllllll**

Veterans’ Day

is Friday, November 11th. We thank all those who have served!

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Order forms for **Christmas Poinsettias** will be available Sunday, November 20th. Please consider purchasing one or more to help beautify our altar for Christmas.

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**2022 Advent Services**

Please join us this Advent season for services to be held at noon and 7 pm the following Wednesdays:

November 30

December 7, 14, and 21.

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**OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Finance Committee: Sun., Nov. 6 after worship

Interior Committee: Wed., Nov. 9 at 7:15 pm

Bylaws & Constitution Committee: Wed., Nov. 16 at 7:15 pm