The Glad Spirit
St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
October – December 2026

From One of Our Pastors

My Dear Christian Friends

Looking at the last three months of the year and especially the church calendar year, we have so much to be Thankful for. Often we don't realize how many blessings we have to be thankful for. Starting in October, I think of the Reformation. Then in November our country has actually set aside. A Federal Holiday that we call Thanksgiving. Then in December, there is the really big one, we call Christmas. There is not enough time in these months to thank God for all the blessings that He showers down upon us.

In October, we thank God for the wonderful people who have worked to preserve the True Word of God. In the Reformation, Martin Luther, preserved the True Word of God and the True Church for which I am very thankful to be a part of and to serve God. From the time of my Baptism, my parents made every effort to see I was in church and Sunday School. Little things along the way, my mother always noticed little things that made her think I was special to God. Throughout my public schooling, I was always bullied. That led me to attend parochial School for 8th grade and feeling the call by God to go into the Holy Ministry. I studied the Word of God.

If we took a ream of paper and listed individually all of our blessings, we would run out of paper. I was attending a Thanksgiving meal and everyone was to say what they were most thankful for. When it was my turn I simply said Creation, Redemption and Sanctification. Some people said "what?" and others said "wow." That pretty much covers everything. Every day is a day of Thanksgiving to God

When we come to December how can I say it in just a couple of Words? We received the greatest blessing ever, the greatest gift ever wrapped up in swaddling clothes. You want to talk about a gift that keeps on giving; it is the Baby Jesus, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, redemption and eternal life. As long as we believe in Him and what He has done for us, we receive blessings every day and throughout eternity. So have a blessed Reformation, a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry and Joyous Christmas. Rejoice greatly in the Lord and give thanks!!!

Pastor Duane Fluechtling

CHRISMONS FOR EVERYDAY!

On August 11th, many of us experienced "The Derecho" a new word for many of us! A Land Hurricane that turned many of our lives upside down, trees down, no electricity, no phones, no internet, no gas! Oh no! What now?

Then August 29th A beautiful sunny Saturday morning 8 Amazing Presenters shared with us the importance of Jesus in our Everyday Lives! How did they do this? Let me tell you:

Mary Sella shared the gift of Hospitality and her words of Wisdom with the many ways serving others with LOVE follows the heart of Jesus! Give Thanks!

Tina Morse shared her talents thru Watercolor Cards of "The Shepherd Staff" Our reminder Jesus walks with us 'His Rod and Staff they comfort us" even in the storms. In The Garden

Bob Brandy shared his knowledge of Technology and the many ways to use it for Digital Christian

Art work, The St. Paul Website, using FB and YouTube shares the Gospel and Sermon to many not in attendance. Earth and All Stars 4-6

Kaylee Krieger shared her Gift of Crocheting and her 2 Jesus Dolls! Kaylee also shared her presentation with us, which is printed on page 2! *(From Fellow Members)* Jesus Loves Me

Henry Sella shared his skill with Woodworking and the Beautiful Crosses he created. Henry also shared how Wood has been used all thru the Bible and Creation, Trees, Noah's Ark, Wood for Fire, The Cross of Christ, and The Tree of Life! Old Rugged Cross

Diana Carr shared her gift of quilting and created a Potholder using the symbol of Jesus as the Fish. A symbol used after Jesus death to let others know they were Followers of Christ. Beautiful Savior

Deb Brandy shared flowers and colors are beautiful reminders and connection to Gods creation, the change of seasons and to Give Thanks to the creator. Using a simple flower vase and either live or artificial flowers can bring Jesus to our tables. Many of the items are from the Dollar Store and can be easily changed and given away as gifts. Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

Janet Sanders brought the Gift of Music to our day! You may have noticed every presenter had a Song. Our Saturday was filled with music as we opened with Prayer and Music, we sang together after each presenter and began our lunch with the Prayer and music to Edelweiss. Music connects us and unites us with Our Lord and Savior. Much of the music we find in Bible verses, Psalms, our Church Liturgy. Music stays with us long after the event is over!

Card Ministry

We are starting a card ministry here at the church. We will be making the cards. This is why we would like to extend an invitation to join us on this journey. We will be starting in November, meeting at the church on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 10 am to 12 pm.

Casey Stonerock and Sandee Bodza are the co-leaders of the ministry.

If you would like to join us or have any questions, please contact us at cards@splcms.org

From Fellow Members

Hello everyone, I'm Kaylee and today I'll be sharing my chrismon for everyday life. My symbol is Jesus and the way he shows his love to us and my talent is crocheting, but specifically crocheting people or dolls. I love crocheting because it is an activity that I can do with my grandma, and allows us to get closer. She was the one that taught me the basics of how to crochet, which makes finishing projects and

getting to show her, the best part of the whole process. Crocheting can represent how intricately Jesus's love is woven and stitched into our lives.

I was able to create a Jesus doll using a pattern from Etsy. To create him I used brown, skin tone, white, and red chenille yarn, so that he is a little bigger than a normal crochet piece. The Etsy pattern, especially on the hair was giving me a lot of trouble, so I've also created one with ChatGPT, and it gave similar results, but it was a little easier to create. Here is the finished version of him from Etsy, and then this is the one that I created using ChatGPT.

I picked Jesus as my symbol because throughout the bible he shows us five different ways to love, and my grandma taught me that love is the most important thing to add to a crochet piece.

The first way of love shown is Sacrificial love, shown with the bible verse John 3:16. This is the foundational verse of Christian love, and connects Jesus's love to the ultimate sacrifice. It also explains to us that his love and love in general isn't just an emotion, but also an action. Jesus does this by willingly giving up his life so that humanity has the opportunity for salvation and eternal life in heaven.

The next way the bible and Jesus teach us to love is through guiding love. This is shown in John 14:6, where Jesus's love is shown through his guidance. Out of love he doesn't leave us guessing for ways to connect to God, but declares himself the way, the truth, and the life. He is lovingly providing a direct, accessible path for humanity to find a relationship with our heavenly father.

The third version of love that Jesus uses is compassionate love. This is explored in Matthew 11:28. This verse illustrates Jesus's empathy and compassion for human kind. It shows that deep love pays attention to suffering, anxiety, and exhaustion and instead of demanding more work, love offers emotional relief and spiritual rest for the struggling.

The next version of love that Jesus shows is humble love in Philippians 2:8. In the context of this verse Jesus is stepping down from his divine privileges in order to experience the limitations, pain, and ultimate humiliation of human life. It shows that his love is completely selfless, and he was willing to lower himself to the absolute worst in order to lift humanity up.

The final version of love that Jesus shows us is enduring love. This is shown in Matthew 28:20. This final promise highlights his faithful and constant love. It is the assurance of permanent companionship, even after his physical departure. He lets us know in this verse that his followers will never be abandoned, isolated, or walk through life alone because they have his love.

All of these examples of love can be summed up in a song that many of us learned as children: Jesus Loves Me. The lyrics in this song say Jesus loves me, this I know for the bible tells me so. Looking at the verses that I shared, we can see exactly how the bible tells us of his love. This song reminds everyone that no matter how complicated life gets, Jesus's love remains a simple truth.

To conclude, my Chrismon isn't just a crocheted doll, it is a physical reminder of the love that Jesus provides. Just like I am able to connect with my grandmother through our crochet projects, Jesus connects with us through his endless love and compassion. I hope that when you see symbols of Jesus you remember that he loves us all unconditionally. Thank you!

Serving those in need as our Lord directs us.

This year Social Ministry partnered with Madison School and Operation Kindness. We continue to help those in need with gift cards for food during the year and during the holiday season. Your monetary donations are greatly appreciated and much needed. Please help us help others by contributing to Social Ministry marked on your Offering Envelopes.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner and time seems to speed up this time of

year. At the present time we are currently assisting 5 families. We try to get the gifts cards out to the families a week or more before the holiday, so they have time to plan and shop.

In the Church is a box marked OPERATION KNIDNESS! Food donations of canned goods, Boxed meals, Snacks, Kleenex, Soap, Toothpaste are also collected to be passed out to Stock the local Micro Panties. TOGETHER WE CAN HELP LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED.

ZOOM ROOM

Monday – Friday Devotions

This is lively discussion group as we dig a little deeper into the Bible passages and discover a plethora of information. The conversation and fellowship is an AWESOME way to start and end the day! Give it a try!

8:00-8:15 am Portals Prayer Devotional (we have them at church)

8:00-8:15 pm Lutheran Hour Ministries used during Lent and Advent

We will be exploring what Devotionals to try after Easter!

For the Link:
Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896
Email: letsdiscuss@splcms.org

Saturday Bible Study

8:00 am – 9:00am Women of the Bible
Contact Co-Hosts for more info:
Casey: cjstone93@comcast.net
Deb: deb@splcms.org

Bits & Pieces

Asleep In Jesus

Madelaine Y. Zander, nee Aubert, age 82, of Thornton, IL, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 23, 2026. Beloved wife of Raymond A. Zander. Loving mother of Kimberly (James) Callahan, Jennifer (George) Saraivanov, and Daniel (Sharon) Zander. Cherished grandmother of Jessica, Rebecka, and Raymond McCrary, Danielle and Sean Zander; step grandmother of Jaime (Nick) Rangos, and step great-grandmother of Athena Rangos. Dear sister-in-law of the late Margaret Pearson and Janet (late Alton Jr.) Sanders. Proud aunt of several nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by her parents Caspar and Alice Aubert.

Madelaine was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1943 and became a United States citizen on December 13, 1966. As a counselor, she helped many people walk through various trials and addictions. Later in life, Madelaine was also a crossing guard in Thornton, making friends with all of the children. She loved to garden and grow beautiful flowers. She had a great love of her pets, both dogs and cats. Madelaine was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

As we were preparing this newsletter, I began to take a walk down Memory Lane, trying to recall the 1st time Rev. Dr. Allan Buss came to St. Paul's for our Thanksgiving evening service. If memory serves me, Pastor Wahl invited Pastor Buss in 2019 to be a guest speaker during the service. Little did we know back then this would be our Beloved Pastor Wahl's last Thanksgiving service at St. Paul's.

Pastor Buss offered to be our Guest Pastor for our Thanksgiving service that following year! This wonderful man also has returned to us every year for our Thanksgiving evening service, Christmas Eve, and Easter Morning service. God was watching over us and continues to bless us. Thank You Pastor Buss. Deb

Sunday, November 22, 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 N. Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476

Guest Speaker:
N.I.D. President
Rev. Dr. Allan Buss

You are invited to the annual Turkey Dinner following the service

Please RSVP by November 16th call or text the Church cell: 312-533-1896 or email office@splcms.org, with number of guests and the name of a side dish or dessert to share, turkey and drinks are provided.

Thursday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 N. Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476

Guest Speaker:
N.I.D. President
Rev. Dr. Allan Buss

Join us on Christmas Eve, for coffee, hot cocoa, cookies & fellowship, before and/or after our Candle Light service.

October, November, December at a Glance

10/4	9:30AM	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10/11	9:30AM	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
10/18	9:30AM	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
10/25	9:30AM	Reformation Day (Observed)
11/1	9:30AM	All Saints' Day
11/8	9:30AM	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
11/15	9:30AM	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
11/22	9:30AM 4:00PM 5:00PM	Last Sunday of the Church Year Thanksgiving Service Thanksgiving Dinner
11/29	9:30AM	First Sunday in Advent
12/2		First Midweek Service in Advent
12/6	9:30AM	Second Sunday in Advent
12/9		Second Midweek Service in Advent
12/13	9:30AM	Third Sunday in Advent
12/16		Third Midweek Service in Advent
12/20	9:30AM	Fourth Sunday in Advent
12/23	No Service	Fourth Midweek Service in Advent
12/24	6:00PM	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)
12/25	No Service	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)
12/27	9:30AM	First Sunday after Christmas

Answer at https://www.splcms.org/index.php/newsletter/puzzle-solutions

Bible quiz

In Bible times, the shepherds probably spent more time with their sheep than with their families. They had to take their sheep from one feeding ground to another. They had to make sure the flock had sufficient water. And they had to protect them from wild animals at night. When an animal was hurt, the shepherd rubbed a liquid on the injury. What was it?

A. water
B. honey
C. a salt solution
D. olive oil

The answer is in Psalm 23:5.

Advent is a beginning

Advent begins on November 29 this year. Many Christians may not realize that Advent is the beginning of the "church year." The church year starts with our preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ. Advent obviously leads to Christmas Day.

After Christmas, churches move on to observe Epiphany (the arrival of the wise men). Epiphany is always observed on January 6. Next comes the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent continues through Holy Week when we observe Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Forty days after Easter we recall the ascension of Christ (Acts 1:9) on Ascension Day. Fifty days after Easter comes the birthday of the church when the Holy Spirit descended upon Christ's followers in Jerusalem giving them power and unity. It happened on the day of Pentecost, a harvest holiday celebrated by Jews. Pentecost is observed until the start of Advent, when the church year begins again.

October		November		December	
2	Barbara Hoeksema	5	Andrew Bahm	5	Olive Dunne
3	Judy Wilmington	8	Laura Schassburger	16	Justin Bruning
7	Kaylee Krieger	10	Nicole Reichert		Bill Sommer
14	Payton Vandommelen	21	Nicholas Carr	18	Kristen Dunne
15	David Hudson Jr.	24	Deb Brandy	19	Margaret Loitz
17	Coral Middleton		Judy Diekelman		
	Annelise Rodenberg	27	Travis Middleton		
18	Dolly Tatgenhorst	28	Hope Krieger		
22	Nolan Gallagher		Bert Wilmington		
25	Erik Schassburger	30	Jennifer Olson		
31	Janice Reichert				

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
To be Announced.

LETS DISCUSS
By Zoom .
15 minute Devotion
Weekdays 8 am & 8 pm

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Church Cell 312-533-1869
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www.splcms.org
www.facebook.com/splcms

Church Office Hours
Monday thru Friday.
In Person by Appointment
By Phone 9 to Noon

Contact the church office to submit personal testimonials about what God has done for you. Or original art that is inspirational or humorous to the artist.

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Adult Director	
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