

"Making Christ's Love Visible Through Service and Community Connection"

Pastor Scott E. Manning November Message

Holidays, Elections, and Remembrances



November is upon us. With it comes a day of remembrances with All Saints Day/Sunday, the culmination of a very contentious, divisive and painful campaign season in Michigan/American elections, and it leads to a time of coming together as families, communities, and as a church for a time of thanksgiving. At times November can come across like a roller coaster with its ups and downs.

November is certainly upon us. With it comes the battles of nature as weather patterns change, the temperature rises and falls like the movement of a roller coaster. Roller coasters have fast mode, slow mode, and limp mode; our weather likes to drag us through each mode. The wind, the rain, the fog, and, oh yes, the snow. At times November can run us through highs and lows, warmth and coldness, and times of confusion and of excitement.

November has come. With it and all the emotions one can imagine. We start with reverence and, for some, deep mourning as we enter November with a time of remembrance for those loved ones who have died in the course of the last year. We take time to remember our loved ones who have passed over the last year (Nov 1, 2025-Oct 31, 2026): Billie Martin (Nov 18, 2025); Ronald Leasure (Jun 27, 2026); Nancy Branstner (Oct 5, 2026); Judi Bennett (Oct 29, 2026). The loss of these four members of the church draws us to an emotion of grief, loss, and sadness, taking us down like a roller coaster. But, roller coasters don't stay down and neither do we; our emotions rise to celebration, joyful memories, and the sweet knowledge of the heavenly kingdom. At times the November roller coaster is emotional with our relationships and our memories, but we

know where that roller coaster leads us when we walk and ride in faith.

November is upon us and with it a major election. This election has been filled with rhetoric that is painful, hateful, and has exposed racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, and a loss of dignity and respect. We have seen months of vile attack ads and behavior that only succeeds to divide and fails to unite and solve problems or vision for the future. As a community of faith we are called to do better, to be better, and to model better. The riders on the roller coaster come from many backgrounds, ethnic and racial groups, and various different religious backgrounds or no religious background at all and yet the safety of the ride requires the care and work of all in the ride and those assisting from outside it. If we want to see our community, our state and our nation thrive, we must do better at valuing the dignity of each and finding ways to work together. We must find ways to debate ideas without demonizing others because they don't think like, look like, or vote like we do. At times November is a broken roller coaster car or track that needs people to come together, to solve problems, and find ways to enable others, as well as ourselves, to enjoy the thrills, the excitement, and the imagination that finds itself along the track/pathway of the ride (life).

November is here. We move through the month and we find ourselves at another holiday toward the end of the month. We take time to remember the activities of a group of pilgrims who were gathered together for a fall feast, a tradition that has long since become a national celebration of unity, thankfulness, and the coming together of family and community. Thanks Giving reminds us not only of that first Pilgrim celebration, but of the ability of varying and diverse people to come together to celebrate our unity, our year, and the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. In November we are reminded that even as the roller coaster moves up and down and around the path, God is with us. God sustains us through the days of fear as well as those of joy, in the low moments as well as the high, from the beginning until the end. So a celebration of thanksgiving is filled with emotions and the wonders of life and faith, of the ups and downs of life and the triumphs along the path.

Just like a roller coaster ride, you find people along the path that you did not know at first but come to know in the waiting, in the experience, and along the pathways after. God calls us together in community and reminds us that we are not alone in the journey.

This November, let us be reminded of God's presence in nature, in our daily lives, in the life of the community and in the congregation assembled. We will face highs and lows, twists and turns, and

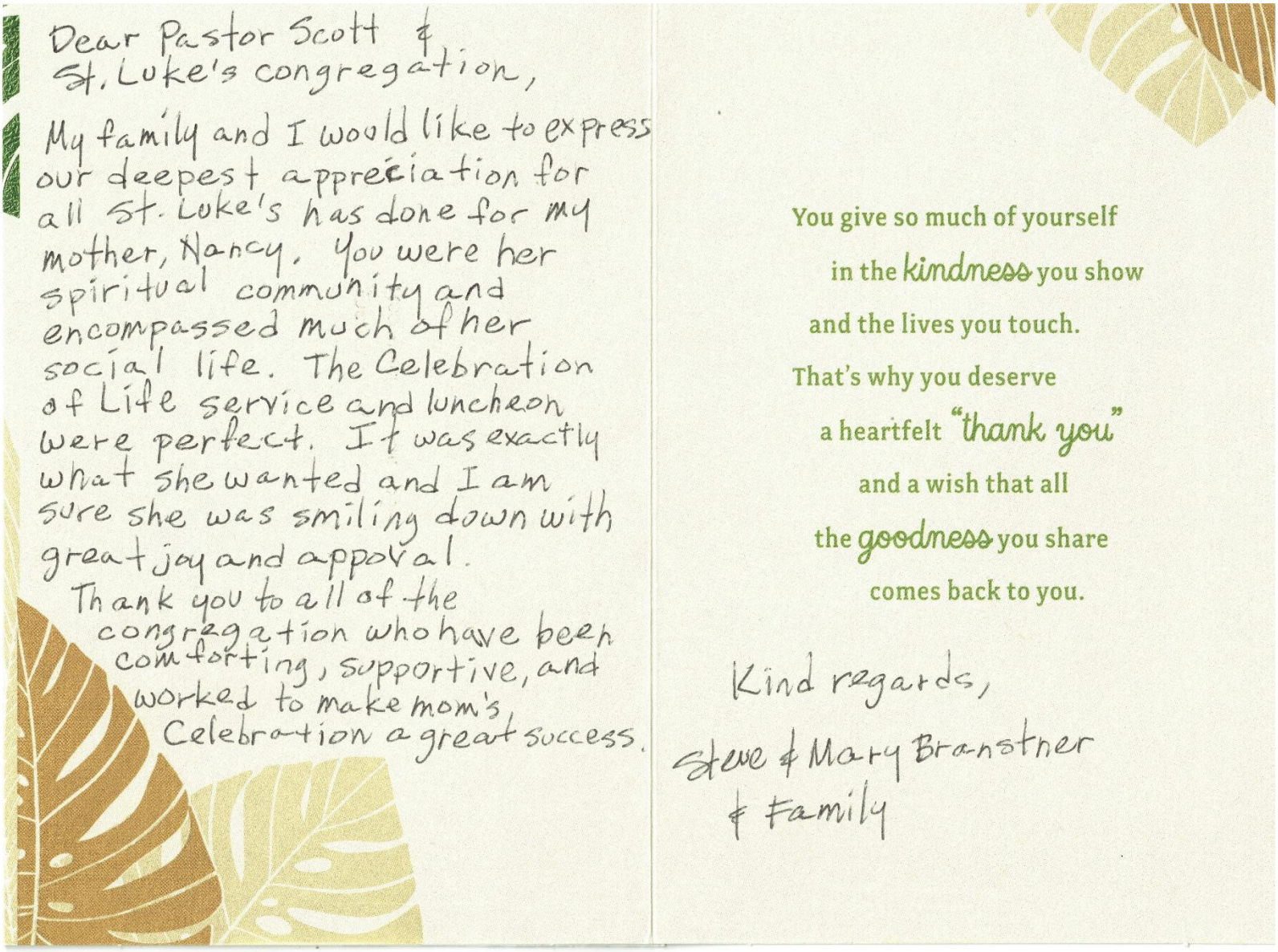
a mix of emotions along the path. If we remember God is with us we can take the journey knowing we are not alone. We can take time to remember, find God in the discourse, and see we have much to be thankful for. November has come and like a roller coaster ride you are invited to step in and be part of a community experience; let us reach heights of faithful visioning, find shelter and calm in the low valleys, and know that the Holy Spirit will lead us forward. November has come. Let us be thankful and let us be filled with Love.

At the end of November we come to the close of that roller coaster ride. We begin a new journey or season as Advent arrives November 29. We close out the current year of our Christian faith and we begin a new year and season as Advent begins Sunday, November 29. They pathway leads us to a small village near Jerusalem and retelling of the birth of a special child. Let us continue forward in the journey.



News From The Hill

Thank You Card from the Branstner Family



Dear Pastor Scott &
St. Luke's congregation,

My family and I would like to express our deepest appreciation for all St. Luke's has done for my mother, Nancy. You were her spiritual community and encompassed much of her social life. The Celebration of Life service and luncheon were perfect. It was exactly what she wanted and I am sure she was smiling down with great joy and approval.

Thank you to all of the congregation who have been comforting, supportive, and worked to make mom's Celebration a great success.

You give so much of yourself
in the kindness you show
and the lives you touch.
That's why you deserve
a heartfelt "thank you"
and a wish that all
the goodness you share
comes back to you.

Kind regards,
Steve & Mary Branstner
& Family



Noisy Offering

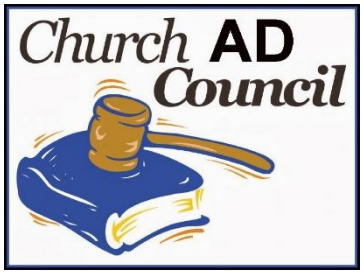
Noisy Offering takes place every fourth Sunday of the month. Please bring your spare change, as Noisy Offering goes towards our Ministry Apportionment Shares.

Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is on Wednesday, December 16 from 12:00pm-5:30pm.

Spread the word and sign up now on redcrossblood.org.

American Red Cross



AD Council Meeting

The next AD Council meeting is on (New Date) Thursday, December 3 at 7:00pm. Contact Amy Camani with any questions.

Howarth UMC Turkey Holiday Feast

Saturday, November 14 Enjoy a hearty

community meal featuring roast turkey, sides, and desserts prepared with care and shared in fellowship.

4:00pm-6:30pm and Carry outs are available.

550 E Silverbell Rd, Lake Orion, MI 48360

News

COMING SOON

RAFFLE TO BENEFIT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Raffle tickets may be purchased in Fellowship Hall
on Nov. 1, 8, 15, & 22 after service.
(Drawing held on Sunday, Nov. 22.)





THE GIVING TREE

Gift tags available beginning November 15.
Last day to bring in unwrapped gifts is Sunday, Nov. 29.

ALL-CHURCH MEETING - NOV. 15

...following service in Fellowship Hall.





POINSETTIA ORDERS

Information to follow in the News & Notes.



PRE-THANKSGIVING DINNER
& RAFFLE DRAWING

Sunday, November 22, 10:45 AM



ADVENT BOOK STUDY led by Pastor Manning

Beginning date TBD

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

...for ladies 13 and older
Sunday, December 6, 5 PM





CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 10, 11:30 AM
Dress in your Christmas finery, anything red and green,
or your favorite Christmas "ugly sweater".

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Thursday, December 24
4 PM at St. Luke's / 7 PM at Clawson / 11 PM at St. Luke's



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, December 6 / 5 PM

Our annual ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT for ladies ages 13 and "more mature" is coming. This inspiring evening promises to prepare your hearts for the Advent Season.

Our program will begin at 5 PM followed by fellowship. Invite your friends and family! The more, the merrier!

SIGN UP TODAY!

***RESERVE YOUR SEAT** - Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Amy at camaiani3@gmail.com or #248-505-3123.

***NEED A RIDE?** - If you would like a ride to and from St. Luke's, add that information when you sign up to reserve your seat. (And if you would be willing to be our chauffeur, please indicate that too!)

***APPETIZER OR DESSERT?** - Small sandwiches will be served during fellowship. *Sign up to bring a prepared and plated appetizer or dessert that can be served at room temperature.* Remember - we will all want to sample everything, so small pieces are best.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2026

The St. Luke's Christmas Giving Tree will soon be located in the Narthex, decked out with gift tags and waiting for your visit. This year we will provide gifts for Rochester Area Neighborhood House families as well as the Baldwin Center Client Holiday Shopping Days.

The tags for Neighborhood House give a specific request. Please return your gift with the tag so we know specifically that it is a Neighborhood House gift. The tags for Baldwin Center simply offer a gift suggestion. All gifts are due by **Sunday, November 29th.** This will enable us to deliver the gifts prior to the agency distribution days. All gifts should be unwrapped.

Please contact Kay Smith at 248.884.2322 with any questions. We would like to thank you in advance for your generosity. St. Luke's always digs a little deeper and goes a little further to spread the love of Jesus Christ at Christmas.



TO BENEFIT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Meijer Double Match Day is Sat., 12/12. On that day, every $10 donation card we buy becomes a $30 donation to Neighborhood House!

So let's have a raffle and have some fun!

We have some terrific - *and practical* - gifts this year! Gift cards to Speedway, Meijer, and a local restaurant for starters along with a few surprises.

Now we need YOU to purchase the raffle tickets! All proceeds will be donated to Neighborhood House!

TICKET SALES:

WHEN?	Sundays, 11/1-11/22
WHERE?	Fellowship Hall
	(Or you can contact Amy!)
COST?	$2 per ticket
	$15 for 10 tickets
	$20 for 15 tickets
	$30 for 20 tickets

HOW DO I ENTER?

After you buy your tickets, fill them out and deposit them in the jars representing each of the raffle prizes.

News From The Hill

DRAWING: SUN., NOVEMBER 22 during our Pre-Thanksgiving dinner
You do not have to be present to win.

Tell your family and friends! We'd be happy to have them participate too!

Questions? Talk to Amy *(camaiani3@gmail.com / 248-505-3123)*.

PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE PRIZES TO FOLLOW IN THE COMING WEEK!



November Birthdays

11/2 Joshua Teitler
11/7 Colleen Vieira
11/22 Natalie Reinhout
11/22 Nigel Bachmann

December Birthdays

12/13 Barb Stapleton
12/16 Bruce Stapleton
12/21 Rev. Scott Manning
12/29 Donna Miller
12/31 Maura Cook



November

ANNIVERSARIES

11/13 Jose & Patricia Ceppi

December

ANNIVERSARIES

None

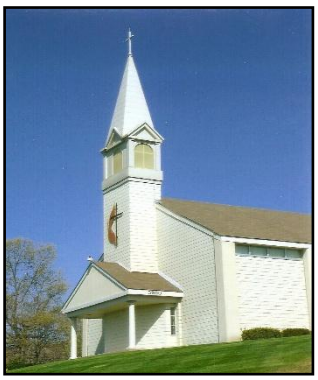
News From The Hill



St. Luke's United Methodist Church — Nov 2026 (Eastern Time - Detroit)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9:30am - Worship Service 10am - FCC (Outside 10:30am - Fellowship 2:15pm - Ignite (Outside	2	3 9:30am - Prayer Group 6:30pm - 7th Day (Outside	4 Wed. Willing Workers 10:30am - Yoga 7pm - AA (Outside Group)	5 7pm - AA (Outside Group)	6	7 10am - 7th Day (Outside
8 9:30am - Worship Service 10am - FCC (Outside 10:30am - Fellowship 2:15pm - Ignite (Outside	9	10 9:30am - Prayer Group 6:30pm - 7th Day (Outside	11 Wed. Willing Workers 10:30am - Yoga 7pm - AA (Outside Group)	12 7pm - AA (Outside Group)	13 5:30pm - FCC (Outside	14 9:30am - 7th Day (Outside
15 9:30am - Worship Service 10am - FCC (Outside 10:30am - Fellowship 2:15pm - Ignite (Outside	16	17 9:30am - Prayer Group 6:30pm - 7th Day (Outside	18 Wed. Willing Workers 10:30am - Yoga 7pm - AA (Outside Group)	19 7pm - AA (Outside Group) 7pm - AD Council Meeting	20	21 9:30am - 7th Day (Outside
22 Noisy Offering Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner 9:30am - Worship Service 10am - FCC (Outside 10:30am - Fellowship 2:15pm - Ignite (Outside	23	24 9:30am - Prayer Group 6:30pm - 7th Day (Outside	25 Wed. Willing Workers 10:30am - Yoga 7pm - AA (Outside Group)	26 7pm - AA (Outside Group)	27	28 9:30am - 7th Day (Outside
29 9:30am - Worship Service 10am - FCC (Outside 10:30am - Fellowship 2:15pm - Ignite (Outside	30	1	2	3	4	5





New Membership Orientations are scheduled throughout the year. If you are interested in attending the next orientation, please call the church office to sign up at 248-373-6960.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

3980 Walton Boulevard Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Website: www.stlukesrochester.com

Email: stlukesrh@gmail.com

Office Phone: 248-373-6960

Pastor's Phone: 248-285-2051

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 AM - WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30-11:00 AM - FELLOWSHIP