

President's Note for November 2021

"Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices" Hymn 533 LBW

Well, November certainly did sneak up on us. As I write this message late in October we've transitioned rather quickly from heat and fire to much cooler weather with heavy rain, an atmospheric river they call it these days. Whatever we call this weather, we thank God for relief from an ongoing drought. While giving thanks, we do pray for softer more regular rain and snow this winter to replenish our ground water tables and fill our reservoirs. We have many things to give thanks for: life, friends, family, fellow believers, a beautiful campus for gathering and worship and hope for a better world to come with our Lord.

Most of you are aware by now that our organist John has elected to move on. We thank him for choosing to serve here at St. Paul's for this past year. His music helped sustain us in a dark, challenging time. We also thank Kelly for stepping up to choose our hymns and lead us in song on the piano. We are also looking into options to use our organ. We've just had our Oktoberfest which went very well. We, again, thank Kelly, the Wolpert family and helpers for making this event a big success. It was good to have some cheerful fellowship in this awkward transitional period as we pray we are emerging from pandemic.

November is a month to give thanks. It is also a month in which we traditionally remind friends and members about stewardship. Without each of us giving a little as able we wouldn't be able to continue to serve our Lord here in Tahoe Park. We are thankful to have Grace Presbyterian on campus and working with us to that end. We do have a few unanticipated but not completely unexpected expenses pending. The heavy rain revealed a few weak spots in our sanctuary roof that will need attention. Our sanctuary furnace also has made a few noises

that raise concern. Those things and a few others will need to be addressed. Perhaps this is a good time to remind folks that in addition to our regular church accounts we do maintain a Capital Improvement Fund for just such needs. With the pandemic and social distancing we haven't spoken of these matters as much as normal, but while we love our historic sanctuary, older buildings do require regular maintenance and provide occasional surprises. Please consider a little extra gift as able. Thanks!

Hand in hand with stewardship goes evangelism. We'll continue to maintain and work to improve our social media presence with our YouTube page, Facebook page and church website. If you're good at or know someone who is good at social media outreach please let us know as we always welcome help. We'll continue to use the traditional methods of flyers, word of mouth and, yes, signage. We've struggled a bit and could use some assistance in these areas too. One way we can all be good stewards and evangelists is by inviting friends, family and neighbors to attend and to make a point to attend regularly ourselves.

Our rotation of clergy and seminarian continue to lead us in worship which is another way we've been blessed and for which we give thanks. We're scheduled to have Pastor Dee Emmert, Seminarian Brian Brozovic and Pastor Mark Vance with us this November. We will strive to do our best to reach out, be welcoming, be open to new ideas and stay in touch with and work with other congregations, particularly smaller Lutheran churches like ourselves.

As always, continue to pray for those in need and continue to serve as little emissaries of our Lord where able. Together, we are the church and the body of Christ. Together we will move forward with prayer, faith and humility where the Spirit leads. Thanks be to God!

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV

Mit dank (with thanks),

Chuck Prewett

Council President