

President's Note for November 2018

"Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer...." Hymn 409 Green LBW

We sing this hymn every autumn as we approach Thanksgiving. I hope and pray we never lose touch with this tradition to pause and give thanks to our maker for our many blessings. The tune is an old Gaelic melody and the words are by Albert F. Bayly, a twentieth century English minister, poet and lyricist. Until very recently many, if not most, of the hymns we sing each Sunday have been picked by our now departed good friend and brother in Christ Tom Keim. Tom wore many hats here at St. Paul's: altar assistant, financial secretary, reader, chef, sacristan and picker of hymns. I give thanks for having known Tom and give thanks for all he did in service to our Lord here at St. Paul's. He was a good man with a big heart, a great sense of humor and a fervent love for our church and our Lord. I, we, will miss him.

Looking back at the month of October we had another great Oktoberfest. In terms of food, fun, fellowship and fundraising this year may have topped them all. Our faithful departed friend Tom, who spearheaded this event and acted as chief chef for many years, would be pleased and is likely beaming in the world to come with his inimitable smile. Many thanks to all who made this event successful including Dede, Gayle, Annette, Lisa, Rand, Jenna, Pastor James and of course Tuba Dan. I'm sure there were others involved and my apologies if I didn't mention you by name. A big thank you as well to all the individuals and businesses that donated items and gift certificates for the great raffle prizes! And of course thanks to all who attended this event, helped support St. Paul's ministry while having some food and fun. If you have yet to attend one of our worship services please come join us as we worship the Lord. Services are at ten am where you will find many of the same friendly faces you dined with at the Oktoberfest.

Yes, it has come to the council's attention that we need to speed up the process of improving our church signage. Soon we'll be employing a mix of signage that we hope will let neighbors and those passing through our neighborhood know who we are, what time our worship is and what events will be taking place. Thank Sandy Wolpert and her family for helping move us along with this much needed upgrade.

Last year around this time we opened what we call The Capital Improvement Fund. Thanks to all who contributed to this fund for one time and ongoing needs and upgrades. A good sized chunk of this fund was used this past year to upgrade electrical service to the social hall and install new central heat and air. We also repaired our own furnaces and did a couple of little roof repairs and electrical patches. With more electrical, plumbing, roofing and signing projects on the horizon contributions to this fund are always welcome and much needed. We'll be doing a bit of work in the main men's restroom and we need to upgrade electrical service to the Fireside Room kitchen so we don't have to brew coffee across the breezeway. Brewing coffee in the kitchen too often trips electrical breakers.

As we give thanks and move into and through the month of November let's not forget those who are struggling and in need of a prayer and a helping hand. You've probably noticed the new barrel in the Fireside Room. It is not for trash or recyclables, but for canned goods and other non-perishables for the needy. We will also continue with our fourth Sunday food collection. And I know Sean Padovan continues to make efforts to help the needy not just with food, but with procuring socks, new underwear, warm clothing and such, particularly for those stuck on the streets in inclement weather. Ask him how you can help.

Finally, again oh Lord we give thanks to thee for the blessings of a rotation of dedicated pastors, lay members who are committed to serving and for living in a nation where we are at liberty to worship freely. May we never lose sight of or take for granted the many blessings we have, help us to discern thy will and with humility, tenacity and compassion may we continue to worship and serve the Lord.

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." William Arthur Ward

Peace and blessings,

Chuck Prewett

Council President