Thanksgiving—Grace and Gratitude

As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ~ Luke 17:12-16

In the Gospel of Luke we read a well-known story of grace and gratitude — after receiving the benefit of an outstanding moment of grace, nine out of 10 people healed by Jesus fail to be grateful.

As we ponder this story, it is important that we move beyond questions of disease and healing, to a consideration of God’s many acts of grace to us and appropriate ways for us to express our gratitude to God for all the goodness that fills our lives.

A week of thankfulness gives us an opportunity to take a good look at our lives and find a way to express our gratitude to God in words and acts of prayer and thanksgiving, words and acts shared not only with God but everyone in our lives.

As we move into the holiday season consider joining us in a week of thankfulness.

WEEK OF THANKFULNESS
Sunday, November 15th to Saturday, November 21st

St. Paul members of all ages are encouraged to take part in this month's "Week of Thankfulness"! Show your thankfulness for God's faithful provision by helping others. Wear your yellow "God's Work. Our Hands." T-shirt, and join in one of the service projects listed to the left on this page. Or, organize your own service project with family and friends and share photos on the St. Paul Wheaton Facebook page!
Every fall sees the celebrations of Halloween (from All Hallow’s E’en, the night before All Saints’ Day), and then Thanksgiving, often a time of gathering with family, near and far, around a feast. The word “companion” comes from the Latin words “com” (with) + “panos” bread, so to say “those with whom we eat bread.” Thanksgiving, perhaps the most widely observed holiday we have in the U.S., is observed by many regardless of religion or region of the country. It is also when we sit at table with some of our dearest and most durable companions here on earth. In this celebration, a foretaste of the feast to come, we are mindful of how we are all part of God’s one family, the family of humanity.

My roots from my father’s extended family are Lutheran and Mennonite. It has been customary for Cristie and me to travel to northeast Ohio for the Hostetler family reunion at Thanksgiving. Typically there are some 50-80 persons who gather, all related through my grandmother and her five siblings and their offspring. These six deceased siblings all grew up on a farm in the early part of the 20th century; agricultural roots permeate the core values of this extended family to this day. Moreover, because many who gather are still actively involved in the Mennonite tradition, it is nearly impossible to conceive of Thanksgiving without also thinking of harvest time and God’s creation.

As I muse about Thanksgiving, I am struck with how God in Christ encourages us and beckons us time and again to be giving thanks in all moments and in all times of our lives. When things are going well, we perhaps find it especially easy to sound a note of thanks. In such felicitous moments we might be given to offering a prayer of thanks to God. Yet it is when life is not going so smoothly that we might begin to more fully grasp this invitation of God’s to being thankful in all times.

In 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, we read: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” This kind of ceaseless giving of thanks, in all circumstances, does not come naturally to many of us. When the challenges of life accrue, we may begin to lose perspective on what is most certainly true, namely that God is with us still, most especially in our darkest hours. We can trust that this is true since God’s own Son, Jesus the Christ, died for our sake in one of his own darkest hours so that we need never fear being abandoned in our own times of despair.

Thanksgiving Day may be emblematic of how, beneath it all, we are more closely united than we realize in our everyday hustle and bustle. Perhaps we might embrace living thankfully every day. Thanks-living … now that’s really something to celebrate!

Bill Hutchison, Interim Pastor
God’s Calling

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, thank you again for entrusting me to undertake the work of Council. As ever, I have been amazed at the talents we harbor at St. Paul. It reminds me that God gives us what we need to do her work.

St. Paul has had an eventful year for many different reasons. Although God gives us the talents and tools to move forward, perhaps the greatest challenge is facing change through the mental and emotional adjustments we must make as so much changes, so quickly. Change brings stress. It can leave us with a sense of loss. Sadness. Disappointment. Anger. But it can also bring us a sense of opportunity. Resolve. Hope. And Happiness.

All around St. Paul, I’m reminded in meetings and service, that I find God in the strength of our shared faith. I find it the sense of commitment. I find it in continuing God’s work with our hands. These trials and tribulations are our burdens because God knows we can bear them.

But I want to take this opportunity to ask for your help. The help I know you can give to assist with God’s call in this time of change. I need your help. Council needs it. St. Paul needs it. So, I ask you. can you, will you help me? Help St. Paul? As Lutherans, we are generally a reserved bunch. We tend to wait to be invited or asked to do anything before participating. I am hear to tell you, you are are needed. You are invited. You are asked. God is calling.

God is calling you to acolyte. God is calling you to choir. God is calling you to help in Sunday School. God is calling you to PADS. God is calling you to help count. God is calling you to bells. God is calling you to help with the needs of the building. God is calling you to share in fellowship at coffee or picnics. God is calling to share an invitation to worship. God is calling you to alter care. God is calling you to be an active member in this community.

God is calling. God needs you. Will you listen?

The St. Paul I know, the people I know, will hear and respond. Joyfully respond. I know many of you reading this already hear God’s call. But I also know some of you are hesitant. Or doubt yourself. Or fear the time commitment. Or have any infinite number of other concerns.

I want to remind you here, again, that each and every one of you has the talent God needs. Whether you believe you are important, or can contribute significantly in a large or small way, and I want assure you that you can. I need your help. Council needs your help. St. Paul needs your help. God needs you.

You are asked. You are invited. God is calling.

Carlo D’Agostino, Vice President
Hymns and Hops

Few things may be as Lutheran as singing hymns and enjoying beer. This ecumenical movement recently started in San Francisco and has spread east. Beer and Hymn sings have been popping up in the Chicagoland area for the past year, attended mainly by a college-age crowd that enjoys singing traditional hymns (surprised?) and drinking beer.

At St. Paul we have a lot of traditional (new and old) hymns that lend themselves to spirited singing. And we have a local brewing group at St. Paul known as "Brew Unto Others." The time has come for us to put them together in Fellowship Hall for singing, sampling and fellowship for all ages that want to participate. We know you won't want to miss this. This is definitely a "bring a friend" as well as a family event.

"When Pat and I attended an event like this in Glen Ellyn, there must have been 150 people packed into Blackberry Market--standing room only. What impressed us most was the fullness of the singing and what they were singing. These weren't contemporary praise hymns, but beloved standards. Immediately, we thought that St. Paul needs to experience this." -- Carl Heine

Bring an appetizer or nibbles to share. Beverages (including non-alcoholic drinks of course) provided by Brew Unto Others and the St. Paul Worship and Music Committee. If you would like to help accompany hymns by playing an instrument, contact Carl Heine (carlheine@gmail.com).

Seeking your approval

A Special Meeting of the Congregation - Sunday, November 8, 2015 @ 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary is being called by the Church Council to address one item of business: a congregation vote to approve the Ministry Site Profile before it is submitted to the Office of Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to signal the official launch of the Call Process at St. Paul Lutheran Church for its next permanent pastor.

Commitment Sunday

Reminder: Sunday, November 8th, is Commitment Sunday for our annual stewardship campaign: Commitment to Christ. Please bring your Service Commitment Card and your Financial Commitment Card that Sunday to place them in the offering plate during either worship service. Thank you!

Faith Circle

Faith Circle will get together once again on Tuesday, November 10 at noon in Fellowship Hall (with B.B.L.s in hand) for their monthly experience of education, a deepening of relationships and spiritual uplifting. Women of all ages are welcome! The topic of "Downsizing" will be led by a representative of Windsor Park Retirement Community. We look forward to seeing you here!! (*BBL = Brown Bag Lunch)

Baptisms

August 23—Hazel Josephine Toftey, daughter of Richard and Shelley Toftey, granddaughter of Tom and Jane Toftey.

October 18—Zain Louis Irani, son of Xerxes and Heidi Irani. Charlotte Violet Kaufman, daughter of Peter and Kristina Kaufman.

New Members Received October 18

Ozana Balan and Jim King, William and Andrew. Kristina Kaufman.
Quilt Sunday

For Quilt Sunday, October 4, those pictured at left adorned the pews in the sanctuary with quilts made by the Labor of Love quilters. In 2014 Lutheran World Relief sent 408,245 quilts to women, men and children in 20 countries. This quilting year - October, 2014 through September, 2015 - 127 quilts were made by the following, in addition to those listed above: Marianne Avery, Joan Ericson, Patty Fess, Carol Findling (and grandchildren Caroline, Miranda, Lukas), Muriel Krakar, and Sharon Simms.

We thank everyone who donated material to make our beautiful quilts. We welcome all future donations, particularly large, strong pieces of fabric which can be used for quilt backs. We also welcome new or gently used blankets of any size made of fleece, acrylic, cotton or polyester - not wool or electric. These will be used as fillers to make the quilts warmer. Donations can be dropped off in the church office.

The quilters meet in Fellowship Hall every Tuesday morning from 9-11:30. Sewers and non-sewers are always welcome. Check us out! Questions? Call/see Betty Polasik, 630-525-1798 or Marilyn Sodergren, 630-525-1798.

Cinema at St. Paul Continues On November 20 with ET The Extra-Terrestrial

On November 20, Cinema at St Paul continues with the 1982 Academy Award winning movie, ET The Extra-Terrestrial.

Relive the adventure and magic in one of the most beloved motion pictures of all-time. ET The Extra-Terrestrial, from Academy Award winning director Steven Spielberg. Captivating audiences of all ages, this timeless story follows the unforgettable journey of a lost alien and the 10-year-old boy he befriends.

Join Elliott, Gertie and Michael as they come together to help E.T. find his way back home. E T The Extra-Terrestrial is "one of the great American films" that forever belongs in the hearts and minds of audiences everywhere

Please join us for the third presentation of the Cinema at St. Paul Fall Season

The Movie starts at 7:00 PM, but come early and join us for pizza and fellowship at 6:00 PM. All are welcome. The pizza cost is $5.00 per person.

To order pizza, please notify Tom Hansen by Thursday, November 19. (630) 690-1725 or kthansen@yahoo.com
Let Us Pray... for these members
and friends of St. Paul

The week of November 1:
Ginny Olsen; Ed Berndt; Eugenia Camacho & Lydia Trevino; Bob & Diane
Marsh; Kelli Adamson; Kate Kalbfleisch; Jesse, Dana, Olivia & Wilson King.

The week of November 8:
Dave & Ginny Harms; Terry & Barb Kohn; Barb Deli; Tom & Jane Toftey;
Arthur, Brien & Reegan Cotev; Michael & Amy Rambo.

The week of November 15:
Larry and Laurel Larson; Tom Hansen; Carol Ketterhagen; Chris, Lynda,
Sasha & Charlie Baumgartner.

The week of November 22: John & Pat Vicha; Jim & Beth Baumgardner; Fred & Dawn Amundsen; Mar-
sha, Tyler, Ben, Anna & Faith Hamilton; Howard Weiss; Anthony, Sarah, Catherine, Joseph, Prince, Tony, Vic-
toria & John Tarpeh.

The week of November 29:
Mark Demich & Kevin Hengst; Terry, Mary, Terry, Robbie & Heather Young; Dennis, Grace, Jackie, Dennis and
Jason Chase.
October was a fun month in Sunday School! While learning about Moses, Ruth, and David, we kicked off a new system for recognizing character growth, participation, and all the different ways our stewards and teachers observe the Fruit of the Spirit ripening in each child. The tickets that Vineyard kids earn every time someone “catches them being good” get saved up from week to week, and then can be spent on the last Sunday of each month. On the final Sunday of October, the Roots students shared the hour with us for a fellowship event. Everyone had fun earning bonus tickets by playing games and doing activities and then shopping for treats for the first time this year. The next ticket redemption day will be November 22nd! Many families travel for the Thanksgiving holiday, so Sunday School will not be on November 29th.

This month our kids will be getting a head start on the Advent season. They’ll continue to find the Big Idea in the worship message each week, but our activities will start connecting the concepts they’ve been learning since Rally Day to the importance of Jesus’ arrival at Christmas. Talking about how and why God’s greatest gift comes into the world will also have us thinking a lot about gratitude for God’s abundant blessings. The Operation Christmas Child service project on Saturday November 21st is going to be a great opportunity for everyone, at any age, to put their thankfulness into action… Vineyard kids can bring siblings, parents, grandparents, or friends!

If your child is 2, 3, or 4: Sprouts class is the place for Advent preparation, too! This month Sprouts kids will spend the music portion of their class time learning how to work together to create joyful Christmas music with color coded bells. Let your little one come ring in the season with Ms. Bosse!
November Schedule

Every Sunday morning, ROOTS is a chance for St. Paul middle school youth and friends to gather and learn more about the life of Jesus, Christianity, the Bible and our Lutheran tradition. Here’s what we’ll be up to this month:

November 1\textsuperscript{st}: Benefits of Baptism, 9:45 – 10:45am. All Saints Sunday!

Friday, November 6\textsuperscript{th} to Saturday, November 7\textsuperscript{th}: Chicago YMNNet ULTIMATE Lock-In! 9:00pm to 5:00am.

November 8\textsuperscript{th}: Fire From Heaven, 9:45 – 10:45am.

November 15\textsuperscript{th}: God’s Love for God’s Children, 9:45 – 10:45am. PADS Service Project, 6:30—8:00pm.

November 22\textsuperscript{nd}: not meeting, due to Thanksgiving. Enjoy the holiday weekend with family and friends!

November 29\textsuperscript{th}: Josiah Finds the Scroll, 9:45—10:45am.

Volunteering with PADS

We’ll be continuing an annual tradition this month by volunteering with Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)! This is a great way to support people in our community who might not otherwise have food to eat or a safe, warm place to stay. So, please join us to help prepare food on Sunday night, November 15\textsuperscript{th} from 6:30 to 8:00pm in the St. Paul kitchen. We’ll be preparing a few different food items for the PADS meal, which will be served the following night to homeless clients. Please reply to the Evite if you can help in this meaningful way!

Also, please note that volunteers are ALWAYS needed to support PADS on the 3rd Monday of each month! If you’re interested in helping set up the sleeping space from 5:30 to 6:30pm, or serving food from 7:00 to 8:00pm, please sign up on the poster in the Narthex at church! PADS takes place at Trinity Episcopal Church (130 N. West St., Wheaton). Please help us make this a special Thanksgiving season for community members in need!

Making Disciples

Confirmation Mentoring Program

- Confirmands and mentors continue to meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45am, November 1\textsuperscript{st}, 8\textsuperscript{th}, 15\textsuperscript{th} and 22\textsuperscript{nd}.
- Mentors and confirmands will NOT meet on Sunday, November 29\textsuperscript{th} due to Thanksgiving!
- Stay tuned for an email with info about confirmands and mentors participating in a service project on or around Sunday, November 1\textsuperscript{st}.
November Schedule

Every Sunday morning and once a month on Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening, Connections is the place for St. Paul high school youth and friends to get together and encounter God through Scripture, service and fellowship with one another. Here’s a look at what’s happening this month:

November 1st: Connections, 9:45am—10:45am, NOOMA topic You, “Some of the central claims of the Christian faith are the source of many discussions and heated debates. But are we always debating the right things?” All Saints Sunday!

Friday, November 6th to Saturday, November 7th: Chicago YMNet ULTIMATE Lock-In! 9:00pm to 5:00am.

November 8th: Connections, 9:45—10:45am, NOOMA topic Store, “We all get angry about things from time to time.”

November 15th: Connections, 9:45—10:45am, Youth Board Meeting

November 22nd: not meeting, due to Thanksgiving. Enjoy the holiday weekend with family and friends!

November 29th: Vineyard Crossover Activity — Jesus is Born, 9:45—10:45am.

Metro Chicago Synod
ULTIMATE Lock-In

Several hundred Lutheran youth gather each year for the ULTIMATE Lock-In, taking place this year from Friday, November 6th to Saturday, November 7th! The event will begin at St. Paul this year() with a concert featuring 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering artists Agape and Rachel Kurtz, from 9:00pm to 12:00am. Then from 12:00am to 5:00am, youth will head to Enchanted Castle in Lombard for all-night, unlimited access to bumper cars, laser tag, go-karts, bowling pizza, drinks and more!

This activity is for both middle school and high school youth, and begins at 8:30pm at church on Friday evening, November 6th, and ends at 5:15am on Saturday morning, November 7th.

The cost is $30 per person, which includes food and drinks for the entire night, as well as all the activities detailed above. Scholarships are available; contact Vanessa if financial support will help you to take part. RSVP’s are needed no later than Sunday, November 1st so that we can make arrangements for adult leaders/drivers; please respond to the Evite by this date, or email/call Vanessa. THIS EVENT HAS SOLD OUT IN THE PAST! So, please don’t delay in submitting your RSVP. Find a copy of the required permission slip on the Connections section of the St. Paul website. Friends are definitely welcome to join us!
FOR ALL THE SAINTS

On All Saints Day, Nov. 1, we remember before God our sisters and brothers who have entered into God’s promise this year. We especially remember Jack Sieger, Eileen Elan, Wally Vallette, Lilly Michelsen, Barb Pape, Bill Eastman, Robert Loken, Elli Westfall, Shirley Meskimen, Anna Maegibson, Karl Zahn, Arthur Seagren, Ron McCollough, Janice Selby, Jacqueline Sitz, Dorothea Albright, Harry Fischer, Sister Kathleen Ann Cieslak, and Karen Detmers. We are thankful to God for giving them to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth.

BARBARA PAPE

Barbara Pape and her family became members at St. Paul in the 1970’s when they moved to Wheaton. Barb was an active and important part of our faith community from that time forward for forty years until she passed away from cancer this August. There wasn’t much at St. Paul Barb didn’t impact positively. She was a long time member of our choir and served as an assisting minister lending her beautiful voice to our worship. Barb was active in women’s groups at St. Paul for many years, most recently Faith Circle, and was the impetus behind starting a ministry group for mothers with young children – called Agape – in the mid 1980’s. She coordinated our funeral fellowship for many years. Barb served multiple terms on our church council as well as many other ministries of our church. Barb also shared her efforts with local organizations such as League of Women Voters and Metropolitan Family Services. Did you know she and her dog Gordon were trained as a therapy team to work with disabled young adults at WDSRA?

The thing about Barb was that she lived her faith and shared her indomitable spirit with everyone she encountered. Her kind smile and positive outlook on life was infectious. You always felt that you mattered to Barb. She had a good word to say about everyone. Barb believed we are to be Christ’s hands and feet in this world; that was how she lived her life and how she encouraged others to live as well. Her spirit will continue to bless our faith community for many years to come.

Sue Cahalan

LILLY HANSINE MICHELSN

Proverbs 31 says it well: “Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gate.”

Lilly was a kind, loving, joyous, and fun lady of God. She had a beautiful singing voice. She would often break into song and we would be treated to a hymn. I don’t even remember seeing her angry or bitter of hearing her speak poorly of anyone.

In 1969, when I first met Lilly she was my Children’s (Scott and Debbie) kindergarten Sunday school teacher. My daughter said her hair looked like barley and she was kind and loving and accepting. She was wonderful with them. She always used a flannel board to tell her stories and children were mesmerized by them. The stories of the Bible and the love of Jesus came alive when she taught them.

During the last few years of her life I had the privilege of serving her communion once a month at the DuPage County Convalescent Home. It was a truly holy time.

One of the funny things she would always say to me was, “Now, Pat, you are never in church!” At first I tried to explain that, yes, I was. I finally gave up.

One of the humorous things about Lilly was later in her Alzheimer’s disease, each time I would go to the Convalescent Home and we would be sitting with her friends, she would say to me, “Pat, I want you to meet my husband . . . And she would introduce me to someone sitting near us. “Anyone who knew her love for her husband Lou would find this very humorous!

This lady was a pure joy to be around and I am grateful to have known her for the time that I did. God’s love shone through her face!

Pat Pape
**WALLY VALLETTE**

Wally Vallette shared a lot of his history with St. Paul. For one thing, his grandparents’ house, where Wally and his parents lived when he was growing up, was located on the present St. Paul property, specifically what is now the grassy area on the corner just north of the side parking lot.

Wally’s parents were among the 50 charter members of St. Paul in 1927. Wally was baptized there on January 6, 1929, and confirmed in 1941.

When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Wally was called to active duty. Upon his return, he also became active at St. Paul. He began teaching fourth and fifth grade Sunday school in 1952 and he sang in the choir. He was appointed Sunday school superintendent in 1953 and served in that position through 1960. He served a two-year term on the church council in the early 1960s and then many years later, in the 1990s, for three years as St. Paul’s financial secretary. But in that span of years, Wally volunteered his time for all kinds of boards and committees, too many to mention here.

Wally met his future wife LaVelle at St. Paul and they began dating in 2008. They were married by Pastor Fred Reklau on May 17, 2009. Wally and LaVelle were among the first group to complete the two-year St. Paul BASIC catechumenate process.

Excerpts from previously published, “Someone You Should Know…”

By Lori Bateman

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**JACK SIEGER**

John W. “Jack” Sieger II, was born in Oak Park and raised in La Grange, graduating from Lyons Township High School in 1954 and Bradley University in 1958.

Jack was a general contractor and woodworker. His building career included projects with Woolworth’s, Henrici’s Restaurants, Orange Julius, and the Shedd Aquarium among others. He then founded his own company, Westwood Homes, his clever catch-phrase being “The house that Jack Built.”

Jack was a devoted member of St. Paul, where he enjoyed services and fellowship and had many friends.

In retirement, Jack worked for Habitat for Humanity, served as President of his homeowners association, cherished his two German Shorthaired Pointers and enjoyed woodworking, especially building handcrafted canoes.

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**EILEEN ELAM**

Long-time St. Paul member, Eileen Rose Axelson Elam passed on to eternal life on April 16, 2015. Eileen was a member of the church council. She also held the position of Treasurer for several years.

Eileen was the loving mother of Karen Doering, John Elam, James Elam, Carol Dawe, and Thomas Elam. Eileen was the grandmother of Eric Elam, Kimberly Elam, and Ellen Dawe.

Eileen’s Funeral Service, held at St. Paul, included the following:

**REMEMBER ME**

To the living, I am gone.
To the sorrowful, I will never return.
To the angry, I was cheated.
But to the happy, I am at peace.
And to the faithful, I have never left.
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.
So as you stand upon a shore,
Gazing at a beautiful sea, remember me.
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity—
remember me.
Remember me in your heart, your thoughts,
Your memories of the times we loved,
The times we cried, the times we fought, the times we laughed.
For if you always think of me, I will never be gone.

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For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus,
be forever blest.

Allelula! Allelula!
5 things that happen when you get a new pastor

By Tim Brown

Pastors and congregations live in transition. Congregants come and congregants go. Pastors arrive and pastors leave. In some contexts this is more common than in others, and it’s worth noting that there is a vocational push these days to encourage pastors to stay with a parish for a while. (For more on this topic, check out the "Slow Church" movement at www.patheos.com/blogs/slowchurch.) But even if a pastor stays for many years at a particular parish, it’s more likely than not that at some point parishioners and clergy will experience the anxiety, pregnant joy and hand-wringing expectation that comes with calling a new minister.

So let’s imagine that your parish has just said goodbye to a pastor, even one who is dearly beloved, and has now welcomed someone new. She’s in, she’s had her first Sunday, and now you’re wondering, "What’s next?"

Based on my experience, here are five things that happen when a new pastor arrives.

1. New people show up.

They will. The new pastor will speak to new people who don’t know or remember the last minister, and they will make this new pastor their own. She is their pastor. When you talk about "Pastor So-and-So’s way of doing things," they won’t know the reference. They will desire, and start, new traditions. They’ll spark some change, even as they hope for and create friendships with longtime members who loved the way things used to be.

When a new pastor comes, so do new people. This transition will require the congregation to love Christ enough to welcome the stranger and risk taking a chance on new ideas from new people.

2. Some people will leave.

We don’t like to talk about this, and we don’t like to think about this, but it’s true.

Perhaps they’re leaving because the previous pastor’s departure gives them the freedom to also move on after being heavily involved. Perhaps they’ve been on the margins of the community anyway, and this allows them to step away quietly. Perhaps they’re longtime members who just can’t get on board with the new pastor and his way of doing things.

No community stays stagnant forever. There will be a temptation by the new pastor and the congregants to want to keep these people by hook or crook, but sometimes this just needs to happen for one reason or another. This particular transition will require trust, honesty and the ability for the congregation to love people enough to let them go if they have to leave.
3. Worship will change.
Your previous pastor had that folksy charm. This new minister has a love of icons, pulpit preaching and wants to talk about moving that Saturday night service to Thursday night. Whatever the change may be, worship will be different. Sometimes this is welcome news, and sometimes this will cause deep anxiety.

The old adage that a pastor should never change anything in the first year is not wisdom. While no pastor should tailor services solely to his or her preference, worship will evolve somehow to reflect the strengths of the presider.
The community will have to be honest with one another and the new pastor while not being obstinate or obstructionist. After all, worship is more about God than the individual in the pew or the body in the pulpit.

4. New life will spring forth.
It will. Probably in unexpected places. The new pastor will bring his or her own hopes, ideas and energy to new and existing programs and projects. New life will certainly spring up. The congregation must be adaptable, embracing these new sprigs of life and harnessing this energy to spur on ministry in other areas.

5. You will love each other, by God.
This last one is the most important, or course. When given the time and space to be free and honest with one another and when they are intent upon living together in community, the congregation and pastor will, by God, love one another. Since that is the second greatest commandment, it should be a priority.

If gossip, hard hearts, unrelenting egos and ambition get in the way, this fruit of the new relationship will surely whither on the vine. But when we give each other the authority and space to welcome new people, let people go, embrace godly change and encourage new life, love will grow and flourish and infect the church like a mustard week, allowing the gospel to take root.

The call of the church is not just the pastor’s, and the church is not primarily the parishioners.’ It is God’s call; it is God’s church. We just enjoy the responsibility and joy of stewarding both.

This then, becomes the role of the pastor and the congregation when a new call is taken: stewardship. Both must look to steward well—not by force or by ego, not by demanding uniformity or being unwilling to change, but by seeking out the God who draws people together so they might go out in mission for the life of the world.

Author bio:
Tim Brown, pastor of Luther Memorial Church of Chicago, contributes to The Lutheran’s “Reflection” page. His blog is at https://reluctantxtian.wordpress.com
Something you may not know

You may be a very active member but unless you are in the church on weekday mornings you could be surprised to find 12 students and three teachers very busy in the computer room from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This class began October 19 and runs from Monday to Friday for five weeks. It is offered by PRC to qualified students with the teachers. They are learning Microsoft Word and during the last week will take a test online. If they pass the will be certified by Microsoft. If they fail they get one chance to retake the test the following week.

Beginning in January PRC plans to offer a class in Excel. Certification in either or both helps people to find a good job or get promoted in a current job.

Note: PRC provides the computers, Microsoft, students and teachers. We provide the room, utilities and internet connection.

Barb Deli

Beginning by looking at the end

Christ the King Sunday is the last day of the church year. It is also the Sunday before Advent begins. This year we celebrate Christ the King Sunday on November 22.

Christ the King Sunday was added as the conclusion to the liturgical year in the 1960s. Before that, the church year did not end with a festival.

In most places the year ended and began without clear distinction. Advent arrived quietly, like a thief in the night.

Advent has many layers of meaning that begin to emerge with the Scripture readings during November, easing us into December and pushing us toward the festivals of Christ’s incarnation: Christmas and Epiphany.

Advent is about more than anticipating the birth of Jesus. It celebrates the many times that Jesus comes to us, including as a baby in Bethlehem, as a victor at the end of time and each time we gather as a community around word and sacrament.

The church year is cyclical. There is no ending and no beginning. We begin by looking at the end.
Prayers for Thanksgiving

For some of us, being asked to say a prayer for Thanksgiving can be an intimidating task. Many people want to make it a special prayer for the holiday but simply can’t find the right words. Here is a selection of prayers that you may use as is or to help you find your inspiration.

For planting, harvesting and the food we are about to share, we give you thanks.
For every good night’s sleep and every good day’s work, we give you thanks.
For strong bodies and minds, and for opportunities to learn and grow, we give you thanks.
For all our friends and family members who have died and now rest from their labors, we give you thanks.
For moments of happiness and joy that enlighten our days, we give you thanks.
For the young who have high hopes and so many possibilities for their future, we give you thanks.
For a family that lives together and eats together and grows together, we give you thanks.
For your Son, Jesus Christ, who lived and died and now lives again so that we can be saved, we give you thanks.
For the food we eat and these moments we share, we give you thanks.
To you, O God, we give praise and glory on this Thanksgiving Day, and always. Amen.
-- From Living race Lutheran Church, Omaha, Neb.

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be and bless these gifts bestowed by thee. And bless our loved ones everywhere, and keep them in your loving care.
-- Moravian blessing

May the Lord of all creation shower his blessings and favor upon you.
May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with his presence and fill your loved ones with peace.

May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days until you come into the joys of his eternal kingdom.
And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
-- Thomas L. Weitzel

O gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick or suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your Son. Amen.
-- Mary Cronk Farrell
Thanking Carl Heine for 30 years of service!

It is with gratitude that we thank God for the many gifts St. Paul’s Music and Choir Director, Carl Heine has given to this church.

Thank you, Carl, you are amazing. It is hard to comprehend the hours you have spent using your time and many talents to the glory of God.

Carl earned a B.A. in Music from the University of Washington in 1971. He also holds a Ph.D., Education from the University of Chicago, an M.A. Education from Wheaton College, and a B.A., Christian Education from the Lutheran Bible Institute.