

# Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 26

November 2024

Issue 11

## Now Thank We All Our God

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

1 Now thank we all our  
God  
With hearts and hands and  
voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous  
God  
Through all our life be near  
us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace  
And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next!

3 All praise and thanks to  
God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

*“Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:18b-21).*

The National Day of Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 28. We, at Prince of Peace, will celebrate Thanksgiving with a Divine Service on Wednesday, November 27 at 7 p.m. Each year, the Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service is a service of so much joy with hymns, such as the above hymn “Now Thank We All Our God” (LSB 895) and “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (LSB 790).

What a thrilling experience it is to join with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ singing thanksgiving hymns of gratitude and thanksgiving to God!

But you may not be aware of the stories behind many of our favorite thanksgiving hymns. You may have thought that hymns like “Now Thanks We All Our God” were written after some special bountiful harvest. But there, you would be wrong. Actually, this hymn was written in the worst of times, during difficult days of war and trouble. Times of trial and tribulation.

Rev. Martin Rinckart penned this hymn. When he was 31, Rinckart was called to serve the town of Eilenberg in Germany. When he arrived, all appeared to be well. But soon the Thirty Years' War began. Eilenberg was a walled city, so it became a place of refuge. Within this place of refuge, many people flocked there for safety, and with them, they brought overcrowding, and with that, unsanitary conditions, which led to disease, famine, pestilence and death. It was recorded that Rinckart conducted as many as 50 funerals in a single day.

On top of all of that, the Swedish army occupied the region, and they demanded tribute to support the war on behalf of the Lutherans. Rinckart interceded and, in time, he was able to lower the payment. Even in times of war, disease and famine, Pastor Rinckart believed that we have so much to be thankful for. We certainly do!

Often, we forget to be thankful in times of trouble and tribulation. During such hard times, we can always thank God for His goodness. He has certainly blessed us “from our mother's arms”! And He continues to bless us “with countless gifts of love”!

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Often on Thanksgiving, parents ask their children: “What are you thankful for?” We have so much to be thankful for, but most especially, I am most thankful for our salvation won for us through our Lord Jesus Christ, who became man with the expressed purpose to save us from our sins.

You may be going through rough times of adversity, but always remember that the Triune God always keeps you in His grace. In Christ alone, we have peace with God. We have the peace knowing that all of our sins have been forgiven. We receive this peace in His Means of Grace. Through His Word and Sacraments, Christ forgives our sins, and He covers our shame.

So, let us always rejoice and give thanks to God!

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Adelsen

## ***Sunday Adult Bible Study: 1 Corinthians***

In many ways, the Church of Corinth is much like the Western Christian Church today. Corinth was a major Greek seaport complete with traffic, travelers, sailors, and merchants. Corinth was cosmopolitan, pagan, idolatrous and immoral. At its height, Corinth was the fourth-largest city in the Roman Empire. Among its inhabitants were Roman colonists, ex-slaves, former soldiers, admirers of Greek wisdom and culture, and a scattering of Jews. It was a very prosperous and wealthy city, but it was also a very irreligious city.

Naturally, when the Christian faith collided with the paganism in Corinth, the young congregation founded by St. Paul, was plagued with many problems and questions. These problems included congregational factions, lawsuits, promiscuity, marriage and divorce, desertion, the place of women in the church, the Sacrament of the Altar, and the resurrection of the body. The Church in Corinth turned to St. Paul for guidance and counsel.

The Church in Corinth was not a perfect congregation, but through the Holy Spirit, St. Paul told this imperfect congregation about God’s grace. The experiences of the Church in Corinth are increasingly those of present-day Christians, not only in traditional heathen countries, but also in so-called Christian lands slipping deeper into pagan ways. The impact of the fallen world’s morality on the Church is all so evident today, with political factions growing, marriages failing, sexual morality sinking, and church disorders increasing. Today’s Christian faces many of the moral dilemmas reflected in this epistle.

At the same time, 1 Corinthians is a letter of hope for our times. In trying to hold the Corinthians to the Word of God, St. Paul found it necessary to state both their human faults and their proper goals. In the epistle, St. Paul shows them the way of error and the way of truth. This epistle is practical as it presents everyday problems confronting Christians in the world as the Holy Spirit supplies the answers to our daily problems.



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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 2 Peter

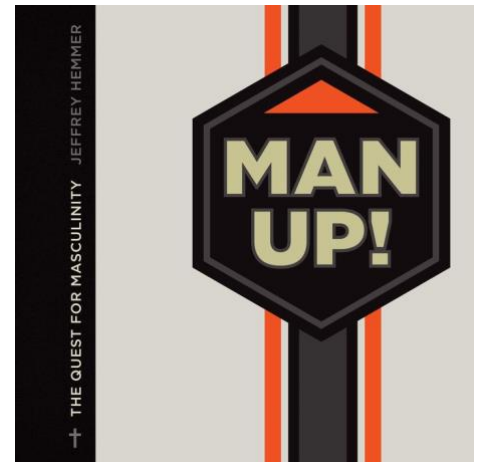
St. Peter's second Letter is one of those portions of Scripture that is easily (and too often) overlooked. Yet, it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and in its three chapters covers subjects of monumental importance – for the individual Christian, for the entire church, and for all of humanity. Join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ this October as we study 2 Peter!

In October, we meet every other Wednesday: October 2, 16, 30 at 9:30 a.m.!



## Men's Bible Study: The Quest for Masculinity

What does it mean to be a man? How are men featured in the culture? What is the role of a man? We discuss these issues through the lens of God's Word! Men, join your fellow brothers in Christ on Tuesday, October 15 at 5 p.m. at Prince of Peace! We will also have a Men's Bible Study outing at Features in West Salem on Tuesday, October 29 at 5 p.m.!



## Baby Hats for Newborns, Preemies and Stillbirths

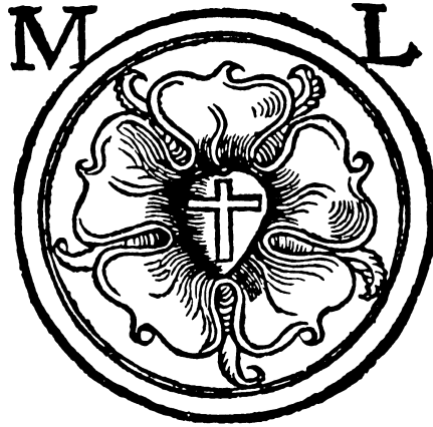
Baby hats knitted and crocheted needed! We will be having a dedication for the hats on Life Sunday January 19, 2025. So please have your finished projects in by January 19! Our hats will be donated to a local hospital. Thank you so much!



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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## Symbols of the Lutheran Reformation



**REFORMATION**  
It's *Still* All About  
**Jesus**



### The Explanation of the Luther's Seal

*First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.*

### The Motto of the Reformation: VDMA

*What does this mean?*

*Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever) is the motto of the Lutheran Reformation, a confident expression of the enduring power and authority of God's Word. The motto is based on 1 Peter 1:24–25. It first appeared in the court of Frederick the Wise in 1522. He had it sewn onto the right sleeve of the court's official clothing, which was worn by prince and servant alike. It was used by Frederick's successors, his brother John the Steadfast, and his nephew John Frederick the Magnanimous. It became the official motto of the Smalcaldic League and was used on flags, banners, swords, and uniforms as a symbol of the unity of the Lutheran laity who struggled to defend their beliefs, communities, families, and lives against those who were intent on destroying them. It was found inscribed inside churches, over doorways, on foundation stones, even on horse's helmets! The VDMA logo and statement has appeared throughout Lutheran churches worldwide and remains an enduring motto of the Reformation to this day.

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

**LIFE NEWS—OCTOBER 2024**



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

**[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)**



## Life Newsbytes

Election Day is approaching. Thanks be to God that we get to participate in representative government, contribute to the common good, serve our neighbors, share life together, and advocate for righteousness. What a privilege, opportunity, and even responsibility! Several states are entertaining ballot initiatives concerning the sanctity of every human life. You can learn the details about each of these from our friends at Priests For Life: [www.stateballotmeasures.org](http://www.stateballotmeasures.org). Of course, the sanctity of life means that everyone's voice counts. The National Association of Secretaries of State has a convenient online portal where you can check your voting registration status: [www.nass.org/can-i-vote/voter-registration-status](http://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/voter-registration-status). And you can encourage and even assist those around you to confirm their registration there as well. National Right to Life has affiliates in every state that prepare voter guides. Find your locale here and educate yourself about candidate positions: [nrlc.org/about/stateaffiliates](http://nrlc.org/about/stateaffiliates). Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America will compensate you for canvassing door-to-door and connecting with your fellow citizens as they prepare to vote: [sbapro-life.org/voter-contact-program](http://sbapro-life.org/voter-contact-program). Find out more: [lutheransforlife.org/article/election-day-is-approaching](http://lutheransforlife.org/article/election-day-is-approaching).

## Speaking up For Life

"The science is conclusive: Human life starts at fertilization. The Bible is conclusive: Life is from God, it begins at fertilization, and God's commandment of 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13) certainly applies to the slaying of an innocent child in the womb. Because that little baby in the womb IS a human being." *Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan*

"These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand." *Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois*

"So no matter how offensive we find a neighbor, we do not regard her or him as enemy, adversary, or opponent. God has created, redeemed, and called each one as His own precious treasure, the same as us. We want to rejoice with them as brothers and sisters unto eternity in all the blessings our Savior Jesus has obtained for us." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life*

## First Friday Fellowship at POP



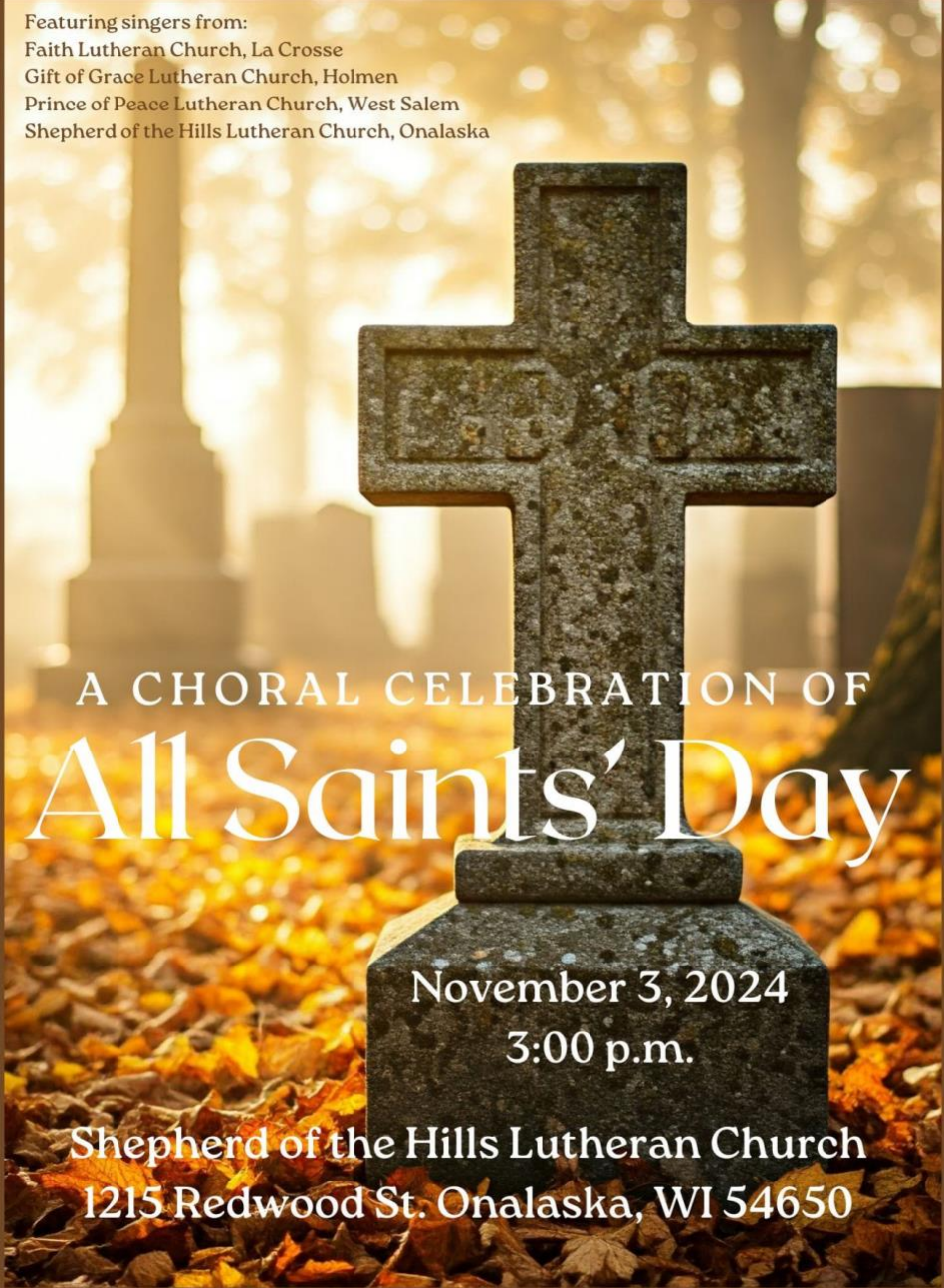
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**FIRST  
FRIDAY**

# Prince of Peace Tidings

Mark your 2025 calendar for First Fridays at Prince of Peace! Beginning on Friday, January 3, all are welcome to POP each first Friday of the month. Each first Friday will begin with prayer and devotions and then move on to activities such as movie night and game night. More information will be available in the December 2024 newsletter!

## All Saints Choral Concert at Shepherd of the Hills



Featuring singers from:  
Faith Lutheran Church, La Crosse  
Gift of Grace Lutheran Church, Holmen  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, West Salem  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Onalaska

A CHORAL CELEBRATION OF  
**All Saints' Day**

November 3, 2024  
3:00 p.m.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
1215 Redwood St. Onalaska, WI 54650

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## The consequences of shallow thankfulness

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!



This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

*Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...*

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, “Tell grandma thank you.” This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: “Look at me! Aren't I special?” No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

*For words that speak at variance with deeds ...*

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

*Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways  
unmindful of a broken brother's need ...*

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

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# Prince of Peace Tidings



## Our November birthdays

Peter Leyh	November 1
Sara Flack	November 5
Lily Kasinger	November 5
Charlie Kasinger	November 6
Nevaeh Schaub	November 7
Patricia Horstmann	November 10
Gabi Ruffi	November 11
Travis Glick	November 15
Debbie Dunnum	November 18
Reggie Kasinger	November 25

## Our November anniversaries

Willie & Leatta Danielson	November 18
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## LWML News:

Our next monthly meeting will be Saturday, November 2, at 9 a.m. at the church. Our Bible study will be "Always Thankful". We have some scripture reading/writing plans available for the month of

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

November will have an emphasis on thanksgiving. These are available for the entire congregation. Check the table in the narthex or ask Carrie or Debbie for a copy.

National Veteran Day is Monday, November 11th, POP will celebrate with a brunch after church on Sunday, November 10th. LWML will also post pictures of our POP veterans on a bulletin board to honor them. If you are a veteran, please drop off a picture to Debbie and please include one of yourself in uniform if you have one.



Our annual Advent Tea is Saturday, December 7, from 10 to noon. All the women of the church are invited as well as friends and relatives. Watch for more details coming soon.

## November Schedules

### Ushers

**November 3-Mike & Carolyn Dosland**  
**November 10-Dan & Kari Moen**  
**November 17-Russ & Sharie Brunk**  
**November 24-Willie & Leatta Danielson**

### Greeters

**November 3-POP Family**  
**November 10-Randy & DeAnne Otto**  
**November 17-Barb Hinds & Chris Leis**  
**November 24-POP Family**

### Money counters

**November 3-Ona Childs & Debbie Dunnum**  
**November 10-Barb Hinds & Elaine Schmidt**  
**November 17-Chris Leis & Ona Childs**  
**November 24-Lori Peters & Debbie Dunnum**

### Song Leaders

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

November 3-Brooklynn Scholze

November 10-Holly Ford

November 17-Sarah Kolander

November 24-Brooklynn Scholze

## Altar Guild

Leatta Danielson

Chris Leis

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# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pastor's day off	2 LWML at the church: 9 a.m.
3 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Elders: 11:30 Mass Choir Concert: SOTH, 3 p.m.	4 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	5	6 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Choir: 7:30 p.m.	7	8 Pastor's day off	9 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
10 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Potluck after the service in honor of our veterans Church Council: 11:30	11 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	12 Men's Bible Study: 5 p.m. at the church	13 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Choir: 7:30 p.m.	14	15 Pastor's day off	16 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
17 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Church Council: 11:30	18 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	19	20 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Choir: 7:30 p.m.	21	22 Pastor's day off	23 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
24 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	25 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	26	27 Thanksgiving Eve worship service, 7 p.m.	<b>Thanksgiving Day 28</b>	29 Pastor's day off	30 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.

## EVENTS

### New Women's Bible study starting

The Saturday morning Women's Bible study is starting a new study soon: "Chosen", by Donna Snow. Talk to Carrie or Debbie if you're interested in joining our group!

### In honor of our veterans:

Join us November 10 for our worship service and everyone is invited after for a potluck lunch in honor of our veterans

### Thanksgiving Eve service

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. Everyone is invited to our worship service November 27, at 7 p.m.