

Greetings to all

November has always been a wonderful month for me spiritually. It begins with All Saints Day, a day that allows me to remember and honor all those on whose shoulders I stand, both past and present. There have been so many people that have touched my life in wonderful ways. I truly enjoy thinking about them while on my journey, knowing they travel with me. I am filled with grace.

On the subject of grace, this is the month that causes me to be intentionally focused on gratitude. As always, I quote my old friend Dwight who used to regularly remind me that "gratitude is the aristocrat of attitudes". I could not agree more. Gratitude for me is where joy and contentment are found. He would also regularly remind me that I could not get what I wanted until I wanted what I got. I don't necessarily think that was about wanting lives hardships or the possibility of the future accumulation of "stuff" so much as a reminder that happiness and contentment are found inside rather than outside of us. And once we wanted what we had (gratitude) we would not find it so necessary to have the "stuff".

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. Perhaps it is because the marketing world and big box stores have not figured out how to make a ton of money on it yet. However, in these challenging times, it can seem difficult sometimes to find things to be grateful for. Therefore, here is my annual invitation for you to participate in one of my more meaningful Thanksgiving practices. Every year, sometime around Thanksgiving I write a list of five or ten things that I am TRULY grateful for. Then I put the list somewhere I can see it regularly, on the refrigerator, near the computer monitor, you get the idea, as a reminder. Sometimes when life gets challenging, it can be easy to forget. It is helpful for me to have a little written reminder of God's many blessings in my life.

If you are one who finds themselves bubbling over with gratitude, or at least have some sense of it. I encourage you to lend a hand, write a note, make a call or drop an email to someone who you know who could use a little reminder that one of lives blessings is that we have people in our life that simply care. Sometimes it is the smallest gestures that make the biggest difference.

I am also looking forward to my Advent time of fasting. It begins the last Sunday in November. I invite you to participate with me in some small way. I would have never thought that I would so look forward to a time of not eating. But it is because it is not about not eating. It is about a daily reminder of my relationship with God. Truly a time of prayer and meditation. I invite you to join me in remembering that in spite of what the major retailers would have us believe, Advent is not Christmas. It is a time of intentional and internal preparation for the spiritual gifts of Christmas. More on this next month.

You have touched my life in significant ways and I give thanks daily for you. I wish you a Thanksgiving Season filled with grace and gratitude that lasts throughout the year. Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, unending grace and that there is a place for you here in at St James.

Take care and be well, Peace

Ken



### **Definitions of Gratitude**

**Webster:** Synonyms and Antonyms of GRATITUDE

Acknowledgment of having received something good from another <accept these flowers as a token of my *gratitude*>

**Synonyms** appreciation, appreciativeness, gratefulness, gratitude, thankfulness

### **Related**

**Words** thanksgiving; gratification, indebtedness, satisfaction; acknowledgment (*or*acknowledge ment), recognition, tribute

**Christian Bible:** Thankfulness, Thanksgiving

### **Gratitude in Islam**

Gratitude in Islam is one of the most fundamental aspects of this religion. A Muslim is not merely one cognizant of the fact that the creator of the universe is one and is responsible for everything he has in this life i.e. his consciousness, his health, his family, his sanity and his wealth but also realizes that it is his obligation to express gratitude to his lord.

## Altar Care for November

Cindy Klomp



Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - Doris Doss & Larry Bandlow

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> - Don & Betty Robertson

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> - Bev & Gordie Kulman

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Open

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> - Open

## Communion Servers for November

Prepare: Don Robertson

Serve: Jerry Lindke &



Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - Gordie Kulman

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> - Open

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> - Bev Kulman

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Open

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> - Open

Please consider signing up as Usher & Greeters and/or Scripture Readers.

## Scripture Readings for November

### **Sunday, Nov. 1**

\*Ruth 1:1-8

\*Ps 146

\*Heb 9:11-14

\*Mark 12:28-34

### **Wherever You Go**

### **Sunday, Nov. 15**

\*1 Sam 1:4-20

\*1 Sam 2:1-10 or Daniel 12:1-3

\*Ps 16

\*Heb 10:11-14,(15-18)19-25

\*Mark 13:1-8

### **Praise the Holy One**

### **Sunday, Nov. 8**

\*Ruth 3:1-5;4:13-17

\*Ps 127 or 1 Kings 17:8-16

\*Ps 146

\*Heb 9:24-28

\*Mark 12:38-44

### **Risk and Restoration**

### **Sunday, Nov. 22**

\*2 Sam 23:1-7

\*Ps 132:1-12,(13-18) or Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

\*Ps 93

\*Rev 1:4b-8

\*John 18:33-37

### **A Wise Reign**

### **Sunday, Nov. 29**

\*Jer 33:14-16

\*Ps 25:1-10

\*1 Thes 3:9-14

\*Luke 21:25-36

### **Sign of Things to Come**



Prayers for ....

Ellen, Joe, Carmela, Doris Suess, David, Karen Marie, Mary, Barbara, Anne Enders, Leo Solomon, Carlene Kaniski, Sue, Kenny Murphy, Scott, Erin, Charlie, Jeremy, Carol, Rachel, Ken, Mimi, Dan, Kathy, George, Barb, Maraleen, Jeanette, Chris, Marion, Kyle, Bradley, Sheri, Chuck, Ed, Glenn

Rest of the soul of Rhonda Neely, comfort and support for her family and friends

For those

- in recovery and those struggling with addiction
- imprisoned and those responsible for their care
- homeless, hungry and abused
- having difficulty in their relationships
- facing financial hardships and issues with employment
- home caregivers
- those in the armed forces, for protection and peace
- traveling mercies for those on geographic and spiritual journeys
- our own personal transformation

If there are updates to the prayer list including names to be added or removed, please contact me via phone or email. Thank you

Also, just as a reminder we have a box in the vestibule for submitting prayer request. I check it every week to add names to my weekly prayer list. It is the little wood church that we all keep tripping over in the doorway to the vestibule☺.

Be kind to yourself, Peace

Pastor Ken

**REV. DR. KEN GADD, PASTOR** can be reached at (810) 326-0592 or [kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org](mailto:kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org) for all your pastoral needs.



## Kids In Distress



Donations needed this month are: kids underwear, socks, diapers, kids jeans, gently used clothing. With winter coming they will need mittens, scarves and other winter clothing.

## Adventures in Faith Announcement

Please do not forget Adventures In Faith is still collecting cans and bottles for our adopted children. Please leave them in the garage, by the back door or contact Don or Betty Robertson and they will pick them up.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD®



A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

St. James will once again be joining in the effort to bring joy at Christmas time. Boxes will be available at the church. We would like to present a challenge.....if we can fill the space and spill into the back pew (usually occupied by Don & Betty) on the west side of the church.....Don and Betty Robertson (Don is our council president) will move to the front pew.

Collection dates are Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> with delivery due Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Let's get started and meet the challenge. We can bring joy and have fun doing it.

## Trip to Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Please sign up for a Christmas tour of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House on Jefferson Avenue in St. Clair Shores, Mi on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The cost for the tour is only \$7.00 for house and grounds tour. The house will be decorated for Christmas. We will be going to lunch/dinner afterwards at either Gilbert's Lodge (9 mile & Harper) or Ram's Horn (9 mile & Jefferson). Please sign up in the basement of church by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Dates to Remember

Today, Nov. 1 – All Saints Day with Communion  
Wednesday, Nov. 4 – Evening Prayer and Discussion Group  
Tuesday, Nov. 10 – Council Meeting 7pm  
Wednesday, Nov. 11 – Evening Prayer and Discussion Group  
Sunday, Nov. 15 – Communion  
Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Evening Prayer and Discussion Group  
Saturday, Nov. 21 – Euchre Party 6:30pm  
Sunday, Nov. 22 – Hanging of the Greens 3pm with Potluck 5pm  
Wednesday, Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Paul's  
Sunday, Nov. 29 – Healing Service and First Sunday in Advent  
Saturday, Dec. 5 – Ford Mansion Christmas Outing