

# St. James United Church of Christ

9008 Meisner Road, Casco, MI 48064 / [www.ourstjameschurch.org/](http://www.ourstjameschurch.org/)

## News from Pastor Ken

Newsletter  
November 2017  
Volume 2, Issue 11

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Greetings to all

Spiritually, November is a significant month for me. There are so many events and church remembrances that fill me with a sense of gratitude and an appreciation for God's grace in my life. I have often said, "I have not gotten all that I deserve.... And for that I am grateful".

The month always 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 so many wonderful ways. I truly enjoy thinking about them while on my journey, knowing they travel with me. I am filled with grace.

About 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 necessary 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".

And then there is Thanksgiving. 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.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ November 1 - Group Discussion
- ◆ November 4 - Serve dinner at Pathway
- ◆ November 5 - Communion Sunday, Discretionary Fund & All Saints Day Memorial Service
- ◆ November 8 - Group Discussion
- ◆ November 12 - Pack Christmas Shoeboxes with coffee hour
- ◆ November 14 - Council Meeting
- ◆ November 15 - Group Discussion
- ◆ November 18 - Euchre
- ◆ November 19 - Communion Sunday
- ◆ November 22 - Shared Services @ St. Paul
- ◆ November 26 - Greening of the Church & Pot Luck

### The Discretionary Fund

**November 5th, 2017**

Did you know this fund is utilized to aid with rent, utilities, medical supplies, food and transportation to doctors, etc.?

This is generated from the loose change collected the first Sunday of each month. Please empty your pockets and change purses that day to meet the needs of our church

Even though it makes me crazy that some stores want to be open Thanksgiving night to take peoples Christmas money I am even happier that some stores who tried it last year have closed this year.

In these challenging times, it can seem difficult at times 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, some time around Thanksgiving I write a list of 4-6 things that I am TRULY grateful for (I'm not talking about grateful for chocolate ice cream grateful, though I am, but TRULY grateful). As a side note, if you can only think of one or two- think harder, if you want to write 20-30, then think harder and prioritize the top 4-6. Then I put the list somewhere I can see it regularly, on the refrigerator, near the computer monitor, bathroom mirror, 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 first Sunday in December this year. 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 despite 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

## Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

And I thought you might find this interesting.... **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*acknowledgem ent), 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.

### **Gratitude in Judaism**

The Hebrew term for gratitude literally means “recognizing the good”. Practicing gratitude recognizes the good that is already yours.



### **Military Prayer List**

I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your love one's, family member or friend's name, rank and branch of service to Roberta Fisher to be placed on the list.

### **Free Gas Stove**

St. James is replacing one of the gas stoves in the church basement with a newer model. Anyone in need of an older working gas stove please contact any member of church council to make arrangements for pick up.

## Prayers for....



Karen Marie	George
Sue	David
Scott	Deborah
Mimi	Lynn
Dan	Johnnie
Rich	Paul
Maraleen	Peggy
Bill	Marion
Dale	Rev. Perkins
Irene	Harmony
Clark Russell	Mike
Duane	Rachael
Joanne	Roslynn
Tony	

## Outreach Ministry

### Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Diapers Size 5, Bath Towels, Twin Sheets  
Pots Pans/ Dishes/ Silverware, Fabric  
Softener Sheets, HE Laundry Soap

### St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

In need of... Stuffing mix (turkey, chicken or cornbread), boxed potatoes, paper towel, condiments (pickles, olives, salad dressing, mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, etc.) jello, rice (one-pound bags), cream of mushroom soup, coffee, tea, desert mixes (cake, muffin, etc., frosting), gravy jar (turkey, chicken, brown or mushroom), gift cards to Kroger or Meijer

### Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

#### B-WARM NEEDS

Cleaning supplies: Toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, laundry soap, dish washing detergent, bathroom cleansers.

Men's clothing: sweatshirts, coats, and jackets.

Paper supplies: paper towels, napkins, toilet tissue, kleenex.

Miscellaneous: deodorants, shaving cream, shampoo, disposable razors.

B-WARM still has a need for volunteers to cook part time, make phone calls, and do some sewing. They are also looking for someone who specializes in writing grants. If anyone is especially generous and has a van they don't drive anymore, they could use one of those too.

## Happy Birthdays in November

1 - LeAnne Bandlow  
4 - Gary Teltow  
8 - Joel Szymanski  
9 - John Lyszczyk  
13 - Julie Wendt  
14 - Morgan Robbins  
15 - Matt LaDuke  
15 - Dan Riley  
20 - Jennifer Uppleger  
21 - Bradley Strunk  
23 - Audrey DeFer  
23 - Lee Mahnke

## Happy Anniversary's in November

7 - Sue & Rick Routheaux

## Spiritual Growth Ministry

We need volunteers to assist with Sunday School, please let Sue Tews know if you can assist.

Group discussion begins November 1 at 7:00pm for three weeks.

Shared services for thanksgiving will be at St. Paul on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm.

## Earthly Gifts Ministry

### Financial Goal Report September Financial Goal Report

The October financial goal was \$5,750.00. four weeks of donations amounted to \$3,254.00. Please do what you can so we may make the goal.

The Chili Cook-off raised as of now \$4,124.50 which is better than last year. There are bills that still need to be paid. Final proceeds amount to follow.

## Worship Ministry

### Volunteers Needed Please sign-up

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care. We need Advent Readers for this upcoming Advent Season. Sign-up sheets for each are provided in the basement.

## Fellowship



### Greening of the Church



All are welcome to assist in the Greening of the Church on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. A potluck supper will be served afterwards. Please bring a dish to pass.

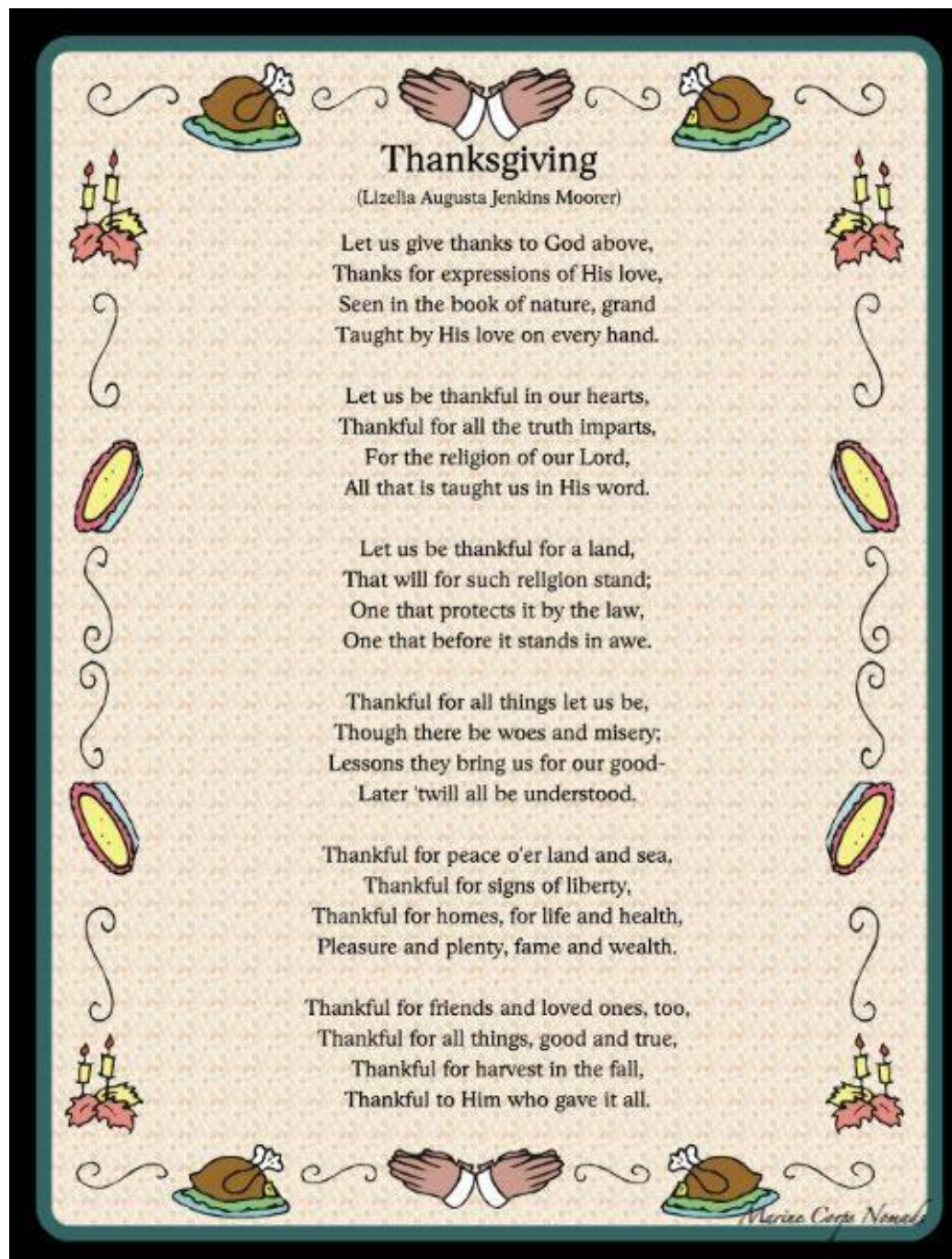
### Community Service

Please join St. James' Community Service Ministry by assisting in serving a pizza dinner and visiting with the residents at Pathway Homeless Shelter at 511 Union St, Port Huron, MI 48060 on Saturday, November 4th at 5:00pm. Your cash donations will be welcome to offset the cost of feeding pizza to approximately 40 residents. Please bring dessert items to the shelter to serve after dinner. Please give all cash donations to Sherrie Ingles by Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> or make arrangements with her to collect prior to November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Spaghetti dinner Fundraiser at Perch Point Conservation Club on Friday, November 10, from 4-8pm, donation is \$5.00 per person, includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, brownie and coffee or lemonade. There will be raffles and meat bingo. All proceeds to benefit K.I.D.S. and The Washington Life Senior Center. Collecting packages of children socks and underwear for K.I.D.S.

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 5322 Palms Road, Casco, MI 48064 on Saturday, November 11 from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Crafts and Gifts, Home Baked Goods, Vendors and much more.

# Thanksgiving Thoughts



## Christmas Shoeboxes

November 2017 collection is for gloves (all sizes) socks (all sizes), soap, washcloths, combs, notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, general school supplies. **No need for dental floss or toys for the 2-4 age group, have more than enough.** Items accepted anytime: toys, headbands, barrettes, bows, hats, gloves or mittens.

**For 2017, we can no longer provide toothpaste (all that is collected will go to Kids in Distress and local shelters), toy guns or army men, paint sets and glue bottles.**

If you are not a shopper, you can still donate to this worthy cause by providing a cash donation or monies to cover the **\$9.00 mailing costs.**

Boxes will be stuffed on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in order to deliver them between **November 13-20.**

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## Roof Collection



The Roof Fund received another donation from the Euchre Evening of \$251.25 bringing the total of \$6,319.25 towards the goal of \$25,000.00. Giving is easy just place it in your regular giving envelope and mark how much goes to the roof fund or use the small envelope in the pew and put your name on it or envelope number. No donation is too small. If you have any questions please contact Ralph or Wayne,



# KIDS PAGE

# TODAY I'M THANKFUL FOR...

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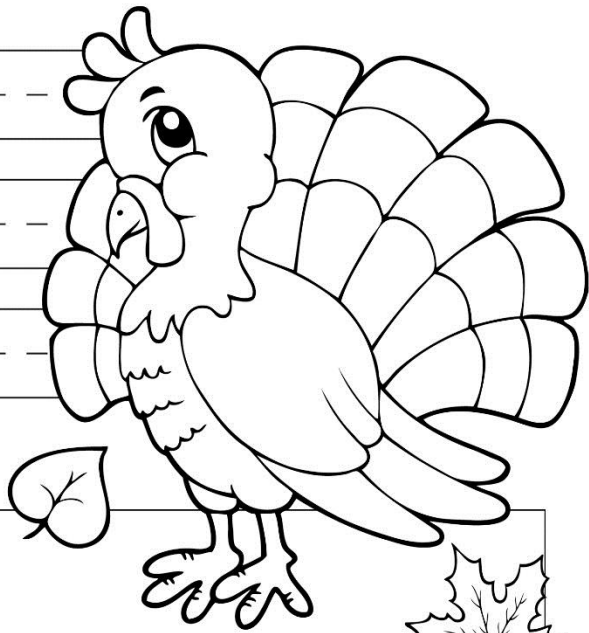
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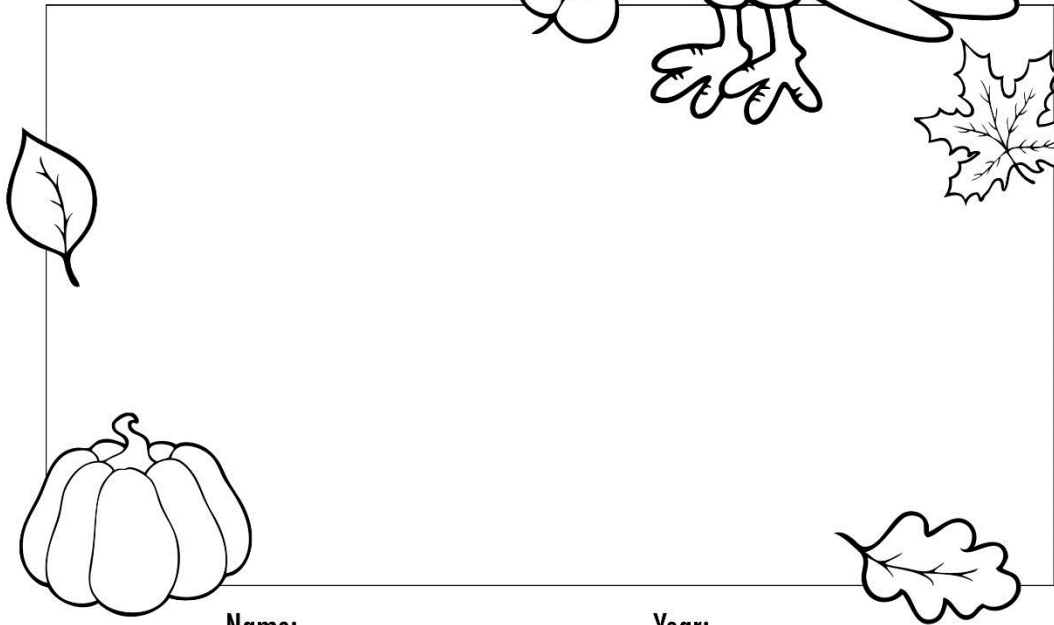
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**DRAW A PICTURE OF  
YOUR THANKSGIVING.**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

## Communion Servers

### Altar Care

November - Cindy Klomp

November 2017

Preparer: Devon Klomp

Communion Servers: Devon Klomp & Teri Wagner

### Ushers & Greeters

November 2017

November 5 -Open  
November 12 - Open  
November 19 - Open  
November 26 - Open

### Liturgists

November 2017

November 5 -Open  
November 12 - Open  
November 19 - Open  
November 26 - Open

## Scripture Readings for November

**Sunday, November 5**

**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Josh 3:7-17

Ps 107:1-7, 33-37 or

Mic 3: 5-12

1 Thess 2: 9-13

Matt 23: 1-12

**Partners in Service**

**Sunday, November 19**

**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Judg 4: 1-7

Ps 123 or

Zeph 1: 7, 12-18

Ps 90: 1-8, (9-11), 12

1Thess 5: 1-11

Matt 25: 14-30

**Extravagant Opportunity**

**Sunday, November 12**

**Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Josh 24: 1-3a, 14-25

Ps 78: 1-7 or

Wisd of Sol 6: 12-16 or Amos 5: 18-24

Wisd of Sol 6: 17-20 or Ps 70

1 Thess 4: 13-18

Matt 25: 1-13

**Tending God's Light**

**Sunday, November 26**

**Reign of Christ Sunday**

Ezek 34: 11-16, 20-24

Ps 100 or

Ezek 34: 11-16, 20-24

Ps 95: 1-7a

Eph 1: 15-23

Matt 25: 31-46

**Reigning Compassion**



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NOVEMBER  
NEWSLETTER