

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

As November arrives with its crisp air and snowflakes, it is a time for reflection and gratitude. In these uncertain and turbulent times in our world, it's essential to remember the guiding principles of our faith: Peace, Thanksgiving, and Compassion. Let us come together as a community to find solace in our beliefs and share the message of hope with the world.

Peace in Turbulent Water

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches us about the importance of peace and compassion. In Matthew 25:35-36, he says, "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in pris-on, and you came to me."

In these words, we are reminded of our calling to bring peace and comfort to those in need, especially during these trying times. Our acts of kindness and compassion can be a beacon of hope in a world filled with uncertainty. By following the teachings of Matthew 25, we can find peace within ourselves and help others find it too.

Thanksgiving: A Time for Gratitude

Thanksgiving is a time to express gratitude for the blessings in our lives, both big and small. While it's easy to focus on the challenges and turbulence of the world, let us remember to count our blessings and give thanks for them. Even in the midst of difficulties, there is much to be thankful for.

Let us give thanks for the fellowship we share in this church, for the support and love of our church family, and for the opportunity to make a positive impact on our families and community. As we gather with loved ones around the Thanksgiving table, let our hearts overflow with gratitude for the many gifts that grace our lives.

Being Grateful in Turbulent Times

Being grateful during turbulent times may seem challenging, but it is during these moments that our faith and gratitude are most meaningful. Let us remember that even in the face of adversity, there is a silver lining, a reason to be thankful. Our faith teaches us that God's love is unwavering, and in that love, we can find strength and solace.

As we navigate the storms of life, let us continue to be a source of hope and comfort for one another. Extend a helping hand to those in need, as Jesus taught us, and in doing so, we can find peace and gratitude even in the most turbulent times.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Wendy

Lectionary Readings for November 2023

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
11/5/23	Micah 3: 5-12	Psalm 43	1 Thess. 2: 9-13	Matt. 23: 1-12
11/12/23	Amos 5: 18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thess. 4: 13-18	Matt. 25: 1-13
11/19/23	Zeph. 1:7 & 12-18	Psalm 90: 1-8 & 12	1 Thess. 5: 1-11	Matt. 25: 14-30
11/26/23	Ezek. 34: 11-16 & 20-24	Psalm 95: 1-7a	Ephesians 1: 15-23	Matt. 25: 31-46

Happy November Birthdays

1-Preita Thompson	22-Donna Burchell
4-Mason Kroll	23-Corey Hartline
4-Ron Lehman	25-Jean Neri
4-Deb Meissner DeVries	27-Doc Stanaway
5-Taylor Maki	29-Evelyn Atkins
21-Lydia Atkins	

Session Highlights

- The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, Dec. 3 following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect Class of 2026 Elders and Deacons, and to vote on putting the CE building up for sale.
- Rev. Wendy would like to have a couple people from the Phillips, WI Presbyterian church come give a presentation on how they began a revitalization initiative 8 years ago.
- We plan to begin a series of congregational discussions focused on the future vision of our church and how we can sustain that vision.

Calendar

Mondays, 1:30 p.m. Food for Thought
Tuesdays, 2 p.m. Bible Study (not 11/7)
Sun. Nov. 5, 10 a.m. All Saints Sunday
Sun. Nov. 19, 10 a.m. Pledge Dedication
Sun. Dec. 3, 10 a.m. Advent begins

Turn Back Your Clocks!

Don't forget that daylight savings time ends on Sunday, Nov. 6, so be sure to turn back your clocks!

Pledge Dedication

Stewardship letters have been mailed out. We hope everyone will thoughtfully consider their support of the church. Pledges will be dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 19.

Congregational Meeting

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 3 following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect Class of 2026 Elders and Deacons and to vote on putting the CE building up for sale.

Church Directory

Another update of the church directory has been printed. If you would like a copy emailed or mailed to you, please contact the church. Also let us know of any changes that should be made for the next printing.

Kentucky Mission Trip

The Presbytery of Northern Waters is planning a Mission trip to Kentucky, Feb. 3-11, 2024, to help with disaster assistance related to devastating tornado damage. Anyone 16 or older and in good health is welcome to participate. Cost is approximately \$300, but the presbytery may be able to lower the cost. Registration is due by Dec. 31.

Senior Volunteers

Lutheran Social Services is looking for volunteers for their AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer Program. You can volunteer to be a Foster Grandparent or a Senior Companion. Volunteers receive stipends and reimbursements. If interested, contact Christina at 218-290-0186 or christina.bartos@lssmn.org.

Discovering Scotland Tour

Rev. Wendy is working with Scotus Tours to help plan and lead a tour of Scotland Oct. 7 – Oct. 15, 2024. The tour will feature the history of Presbyterianism in Scotland. Others outside of the church will be welcome to attend. Please contact the church if you are interested or would like more information.



Christian Education

November 2023



November Gospel thoughts

November 5 - All Saints Day
(Matthew 23:1-12)
Words in Action

- Practice what you preach
- Be humble - live the life God wants you to live - not what others preach to you

November 12
(Matthew 25:1-13)
Parable of the Wise

- Be prepared
- As we take care of others, we are doing this for Jesus

November 19
(Matthew 25:14-30)
Parable of the Talents(money)

- Use the gifts you have from God
- Share what you do have and use your talents (abilities) to help others

November 26
(Matthew 25:31-46)
Parable of the sheep and goats
Christ the King Sunday

- When we help others we are honoring God
- God uses people to do his work
- True faith doesn't stay locked within the walls of a church building - it reaches out to people who are hurting and facing troubles and pain.

Let's all do God's work

*Let ALL that you do
be done in LOVE*










Ages 3+

November 26, 2023 - Ephesians 1:15-23

Thanksgiving and Prayer

Paul heard about the Ephesus believers' faith and their love for all God's people.

Write the first letter of each picture in the boxes.

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Hope Community Presbyterian Church
212 So. 3th Ave. Virginia, MN 55792
<https://hopecommunitypc.org>

Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ games.childrensbulletins.com

SECRET CODE
YJM385



Birthday Corner





Dreita Thompson	November 1
Mason Kroll	November 4
Lydia Atkins	November 21
Evelyn Atkins	November 29

Christian Education



Do you all remember how to make your Thanksgiving treats with the stripe cookies, mini Peanut Butter cups, peanut butter and candy corn. You can also make your Thankfulness catchers and maybe a new project. Just remember to be thankful for all you have and you can do.

Sunday Nov. 5	Sunday Nov. 12	Sunday Nov. 19	Thursday Nov. 23	Sunday Nov. 27
Matthew 23:1-12 Communion & All Saints Sunday 	Matthew 25:1-13 Signs of the end of the Age	Matthew 25:14-30 Use what you have and what you are to help others	Happy Thanksgiving 	Matthew 25:31-46 Christ the King Sunday 