



Longing for Fruit

“... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control...” Galatians 5: 22

Greetings in Christ!

Have you ever longed for something? Longing is a part of human experience; we long for peace, we may long for home or companionship or hope. During Advent we talk about longing for God to transform the world and we take heart in the promise that God has done and will do exactly that. Longing can be a powerful feeling, and a painful one; it is the emptiness waiting to be filled. One of the things that I long for is a sort of spiritual centered-ness. I long to be one of those people who has a daily spiritual practice, the kind of person who always seems calm and perfectly at peace with everything. I long for the ability to quiet my mind, to focus on one single thought or idea without all of the others crowding in and demanding attention; in short, I long for the ability to manifest the fruits of the Spirit that Paul describes in the passage above.

For a long time I thought of the fruits of the Spirit as a set of spiritual characteristics that we were meant to acquire, as we would gather actual fruit. I would have conversations with people about what fruit they were gifted with and should try to cultivate, and I would often beat myself up for lacking the particular fruit of self-control, which I associated with food and the ability to force myself to “eat like a thin person” in an attempt to make my body smaller. As I got older and deeper into my faith journey my understanding of this passage began to change, but I still held on to the idea that we are meant to somehow manifest the Fruits of the Spirit in order to be spiritually mature, that is until I read a short article by activist and theologian Elba Morales.

“It was an a-ha! Moment. It was right there. Surely if I focused on becoming these things, then my anxiety would dissipate! However, what if instead of trying to become those things...I offered those fruits to myself? What if the fruits of the spirit were for me to join and delight in –not another list of virtues to become”

**Elba Morales “Let’s Take the Fruit for Ourselves”, [Enfleshed](#) newsletter, October 13, 2022.*

Reading their words was an a-ha! moment for me, a shift in perspective from feeling as if I wasn’t giving God what God wanted from me to seeing these fruits as something that God, through the Holy Spirit, was offering to me in order to bring me into a deeper and richer life of faith.

Mind. Blown.

(Continued next page)

PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

Morales went on to list each of the fruits, asking themselves how they might partake of what God was offering. For example, how might we be faithful to ourselves? To the person we understand ourselves to be and to the vision we have for ourselves? How can we be generous to ourselves? Or gentle to ourselves when we need it? How might we connect to the love that surrounds us—to God's love and to our own love for others? When it comes to Joy, Morales asks a question that I think is profound "Where am I postponing Joy?" think about that, where are you postponing Joy? Are you finding Joy in daily life? What gives you Peace? How are you being patient with yourself?

As for the last one, Morales modified it from "Self-Control" to "Self-Awareness." What are your needs and how can you meet them? Morales ended their article by sharing that seeing the fruits of the spirit in this way helped them to regulate their anxiety and tap into gratitude and joy. I myself am still processing this perspective, asking myself these questions and thanking God for theological articles that blow my mind. I encourage you to sit with them awhile too; we are so busy trying to be what we believe God wants us to be that we forget that God loves us exactly the way we are and that God offers us the gifts of sweet fruit so that we may feast and grow in faith. Amen, alleluia.

Yours In Christ

Pastor Jess

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS



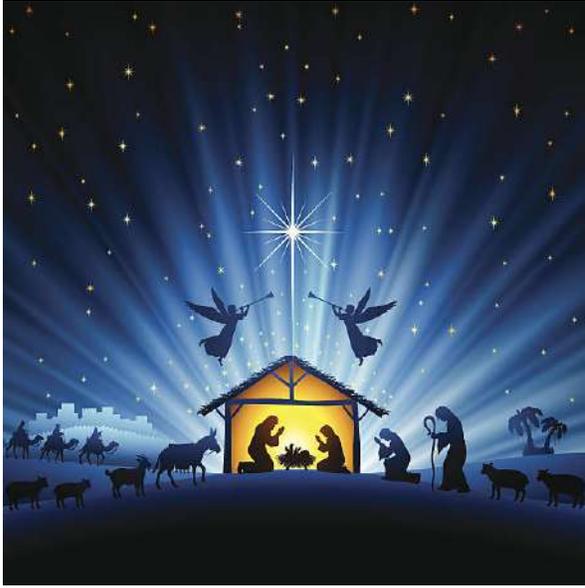
Time to Turn Your Clocks Back

November 6, 2022



CRECHES / NATIVITY SCENES NEEDED

It's coming up to Advent...



Do you have an interesting Creche (nativity scene) at home? Perhaps one with a special story?

This year, for Advent, we are looking for all different styles, sizes and kinds of nativity scenes to create an "Images of the Incarnation" display. If you have a nativity scene that you would like to loan to the church for this display please bring it--along with a short description of where it came from and how it came to you--to church by Sunday, November 20th so that the display can be set up by the first Sunday of Advent on November 27th. Don't forget to put your name somewhere on the piece so that it can be returned to you. I look forward to seeing all of the images of the incarnation this Advent.

Pastor Jess

CHOIR NEWS

Choir Practice

Monday	November 7:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm
Monday	November 14:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm
Sunday	November 20:	Rehearsal for Service 9:30 am
Monday	November 21:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm
Monday	November 28:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm

Chime Choir Practice

Performance will be during the Special Advent Service,
December 11, 2022.

Sunday	November 13:	11:15 - 11:45 am
Sunday	November 20:	11:15 - 11:45 am
Sunday	December 4:	11:15 - 11:45 am



QUILTS & SCHOOL KITS

On October 19, the quilts and school kits were taken to the in-gathering in Grand Rapids by Bill and Karrie Foster. Helping to stuff the truck inside and out were members of the Bible Study Group including, Ellie Buggeln, Vicki Russell, and Kris Norvell.



NOISY OFFERING - BESTPALS

Also on October 19, Michelle Kenat from BestPals picked up our donations of pet food, kitty litter and cat toys.

Thank you to everyone who donated to BestPals.



L-R: Kris Norvell, Pastor Jess, Vicki Russell & Michelle Kenat from BestPals.

NOISY OFFERING

Our Noisy Offering Recipient for November and December is Samaritas.

We are excited to partner with Samaritas for their refugee and senior living missions during our November and December noisy offerings. GSLC has worked with Samaritas before when they were known as Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. We will support Samaritas in three ways:



Household Starter Kits

With the many global crises overlapping, Samaritas is working to provide suitable housing and training for New Americans who are often learning a new culture and a new language to settle in the US. This will be the first Michigan winter for many of these families and Samaritas offers us a meaningful way to support these refugees. We will be collecting goods for Household Starter Kits to help welcome refugees and older foster youth into their new homes.

Senior Living Christmas Party

We are also finding ways to spread Christmas cheer. Samaritas noted that their senior affordable living center in Allegan is isolated and does not get many community groups stopping by to celebrate Christmas. We are in the early stages of planning a Christmas party, including the Confirmation youth, as a service opportunity. We plan on activities like caroling, Christmas bingo, and cookie decorating. Watch for dates in the upcoming weeks!

Christmas Gift Cards

We will be joining with Tapestry to collect gift cards for the Christmas Giving Drive to provide gifts for foster care youth and refugee children. For this drive, we encourage gift cards in \$25 increments to common stores with numerous gift offerings, such as Target or Meijer.

We appreciate your continued contributions to our community charities!

Mission and Outreach Committee

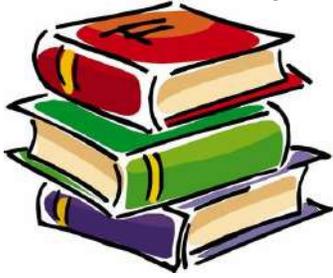


BOOK GROUP

November Selection:

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

Book Group



Books are available in the Commons.

Book Group discussion is November 16, 2022, 4:30 pm.

All are welcome to join us for the discussion.

See Vicki Russell if you have any questions.

In their remote mountain village, Li-yan and her family devote their lives to the farming of tea. They live as they have for generations ensconced in ritual and routine. Then one day a jeep appears at the village gate - the first automobile any of them have seen - and a stranger arrives. Slowly, Li-yan, begins to reject the customs that shaped her early life. When she has a baby out of wedlock she rejects the tradition that would compel her to give the child over to be killed, and instead leaves her, wrapped in a blanket with a tea cake, near an orphanage in a nearby city. Her daughter, Haley, is raised in California by loving adoptive parents. Despite her privileged childhood, Haley wonders about her origins. Across the ocean Li-yan longs for her lost daughter.

A powerful story about a family, separated by circumstances, culture and distance, *Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* paints an unforgettable portrait of a little known region and its people and celebrates the bond that connects mothers and daughters.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING FORM - 2023

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2023 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

In gratitude for all that I/we have received from God, I am/we are planning to return to God the following from our treasures:

\$_____ Please check one of these: ___Weekly___Monthly___Annually

Check if this is an increase in giving from your household.

Name(s) Please print

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” Psalm 24:1

SUNDAY SERVANTS —NOVEMBER

Sunday Servants Needed for November

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant
 Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.
 616.772.4075 or gslc.office@icloud.com

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Usher	Communion Set- Up/Clean-Up	Counters
Nov. 6 All Saints Sunday	WL - CA- Tom Ludwig	Renee Desilets		Terry Grossman	1. 2.
Nov. 13 23rd Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA-	Carolyn Willaman			1. 2.
Nov. 20 Christ the King	WL - CA -				1. 2.
Nov. 27 1st Sunday of Advent	WL - CA -				1. 2.

ONLINE DEVOTIONS

Online Devotions

Join us for a weekly online devotional video that you can find on our YouTube page* and our Facebook page* Each week Pastor posts a short devotion where she invites you to “hold space” for a scripture passage, question, topic or ‘wondering’.

*Find us on YouTube: GSLC Holland, MI

*Find us on Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-ELCA-Holland, MI

<https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchHollandMI>

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

New Cleaning Schedule

The new cleaning schedule for October 30 - January 7 is below. Please take a turn and sign up to clean.

Dates	Name(s)
Weeks of Oct. 30 - Nov. 5 Nov. 6 - 12	Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman
Weeks of Nov. 13 - 19 Nov. 20 - 26	
Weeks of Nov. 27 - Dec. 3 Dec. 4 - 10	
Weeks of Dec. 11 - 17 Dec. 18 - 24	
Weeks of Dec. 25 - 31 Jan. 1 - 7	

Sign-up is for a 2-week period and includes cleaning all areas of the church building: sanctuary, sacristy, entrance, hallway, bathrooms, kitchen, conference room,

To sign-up:

Use the Cleaning Schedule form in the Commons
or Contact Deb in the office:
gslc.office@icloud.com
616.772.4075



FELLOWSHIP — NOVEMBER 2022

Fellowship Sign-up.



	Set Up & Clean Up	Treats
November 6, 2022		
November 13, 2022		
November 20, 2022		
November 27, 2022		

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services and Activities are also on-line.

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via YouTube 10:00 am
Rediscovering Macedonia Bible Study, final sessions on Sunday, Oct. 2 and Tuesday,
Oct. 4, 2022 online.

Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm

Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site

Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:15 am

Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm

OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

From Hope College:

Thank You!

Your gift impacts local community outreach programs [specifically CASA].

Hope College
Philanthropy and Engagement

rec'd October 14, 2022

The Measure of our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 205

Families: 10

Average Sunday Attendance: 41

Thank you to everyone that helped pack quilts & school kits into boxes and to those who helped load them in the truck for transport.

A special thank you to Bill & Karrie Foster for delivering the boxes to the in-gathering in Grand Rapids.



November

Birthdays

Steve Grossman - 8



Anniversaries

Deb & Tom Ludwig - 24

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Jessica Bacon, Secretary (920) 889-8706, jessica.lois.bacon@gmail.com
Steve Johnson (616) 212-6833, sgjcfp@gamil.com
Rob Parrott, President (616) 836-0172, parrott@chartermi.net
Vicki Russell (616) 796-8606, vicki0528@gmail.com
Julie Wolff, Vice President (616) 566-6251, wolffwife@gmail.com

PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze
calendar on our website at goodshepherdhollandmi.com

IN OUR OCTOBER PRAYERS

In Our October Prayers...

- **Our Sympathies and Prayers:** to Bryan & Becky Blank and friends on the death of Becky's father, Jack Himebook, Oct. 16, 2022; to the family and friends of Scott Howard (Kerry Johnson's brother) who passed suddenly of a heart attack on Sept. 18 and to the family and friends of Jim Flier (friend of Brian Underhill) who lost his battle with cancer and recently passed away.
- **Healing/Peace:** Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Ellie Buggeln, Selena Casillas, 8 yrs old-diagnosed with cancer (friend of Ellen Lichtman), Dale Cramer, Bret D'Agostino, prayers for secure housing, Kody De Haan, Merissa DelaGarza (Deb P-G's daughter), recovery from ankle surgery, Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Jim Flier (friend of Brian Underhill) has cancer, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Carol Grossman (Steve's mother), diagnosed with cancer, Larry Heckel, Julie (10 yr. old friend of Eve) in bike accident, Cathy Kelly, Tiffany Letourneau, just diagnosed with breast cancer, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), upcoming back surgery, Trudy & Dale Medendorp, (close friends of Vicki R.), Dale diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, Molly (friend of Deb P-G) diagnosed with uterine cancer, Richard and Joanne Mueller (Terry's parents), Diane Oberlin (former attendee), has cancer, Rita Ponstein, (Sally's sister-in-law), Howard Reister diagnosed with cancer (Sally & Ellen's brother), Roland Rivera, Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Calvin & Adam Stoltz (son & grandson of Lois R.) injured in a serious car accident, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Jon Wiening.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Ann (daughter of Kerry Johnson's friend), Jessica Palys (friend of Russells).
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Faith Lutheran Church, Rev. John Autio, Sidney; Peace Lutheran Church. Rev. Travis Wilson, South Haven; Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. Bryan Schneider-Thomas, Sparta, New Life Lutheran Church, Rev. Chryis Bright, Spruce; Spruce Lutheran Church, Rev. Leslie Nye, Spruce.