

Highfield Happenings

November
2024



from the
PASTOR

“Do not worry about anything—but in thankful prayer make your requests known to God—and the peace of God, which passes all human understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4: 6, 7)

November—a month to remember and give thanks.

Don't get me wrong—giving thanks is something we should do every day—there is SO much to be grateful for!! But, November seems to be the month we have dedicated to remembering and giving thanks:

On the First Sunday of November, we remember and give thanks for those who lived and died in Christ in the past year.

On Election Day, we remember to vote and give thanks that we live in a country where we get to pick who leads us.

On November 11th, we remember and give thanks for those who have fought to protect the freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of the USA.

On Thanksgiving Day, we remember and give thanks for all of the blessings we enjoy as God's people. We remember the men and women who carved this nation out of the wilderness and give thanks for their tenacity and vision. We also remember what our nation's expansion cost our Native American brothers and sisters, and give thanks for those who work for their welfare. As we are able, we will gather with family and friends—remembering those no longer with us, and giving thanks that they were part of our lives.

Remembering and giving thanks go hand-in-hand. And, interestingly enough, when we are busy remembering and giving thanks, there is no time left for worrying. So, don't worry—remember and give thanks to God—from whom all blessings flow!

A BLESSED THANKSGIVING TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES!!

* * *

NOTE: OUR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 SERVICE WILL BE A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MEAL IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. BE SURE TO SIGN UP USING THE FORM ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.

~ Pastor Chris

*The Rev.
Christine A. Bridge*

~

St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church
Congregation of the Southwestern PA Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1595 Dime Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690
Phone: 724.567.7462
Email: hifielts@comcast.net
www.stpaulshighfield.org



Vision Statement

Spreading the good news of Jesus Christ by living out our faith in worship, support, and service to all people.

Mission Statement

SPHLC—

**Spiritual
People
Helping
Lead others to
Christ**

Parish Staff

Reverend Christine Bridge—Interim Pastor
217 Meadow Lane
Murrysville, PA 15668
Office: 724-567-7462
Cell: 848-467-6556
Email: darluz223@yahoo.com

Gregg LeMay—Director of Music
724-567-7462

Clarence Brown—Financial Secretary
724-567-5571

Nicole Ashbaugh—Sexton
724-842-7376

Janine Ballish—Secretary / Treasurer
724-567-7462

Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays
9:00 am-3:00 pm

*Hours are subject to change for holidays,
etc.*

*If you have questions
or concerns, please
discuss them with one
of the members listed
below.*

**Pam Neale—President
Leland Brown—Vice President
Robin Stoltz—Secretary
Bill McGinnis Clarence Brown
Gerry LeMay Nicole Ashbaugh
Judy Grinder Mary Jane Ramer**

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions

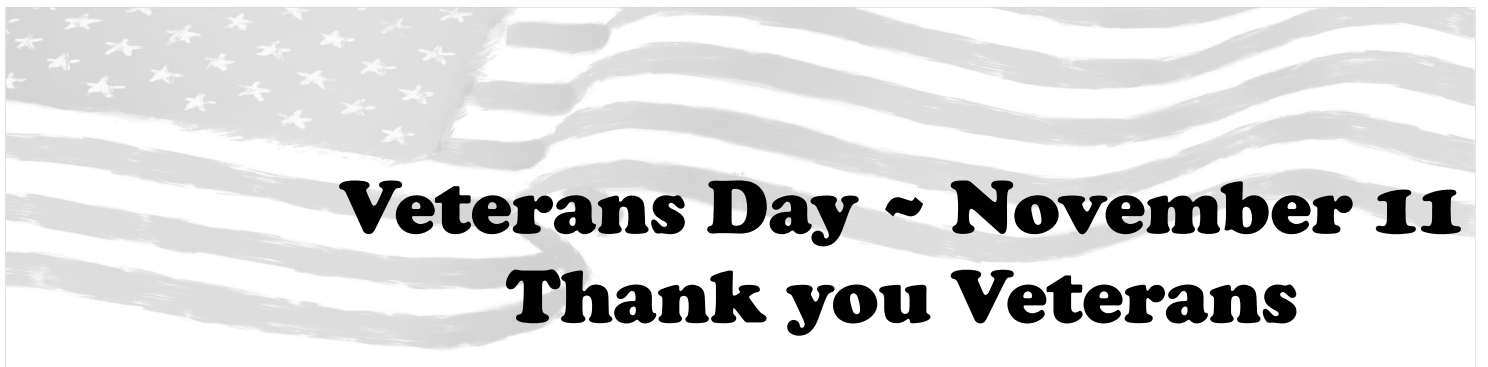


GIVING VS. BUDGET FIGURES 2024

NEED \$1,741.13 WEEKLY TO BREAK EVEN

	CURRENT DEPOSIT	NEEDED	OVER / (SHORT)	YTD OVER/(SHORT)	ATTENDANCE In person/online
January	\$7,135.00	\$7,018.48	\$116.52	\$116.52	216 / 26
February	\$8,061.00	\$7,018.48	\$1,042.52	\$1,159.04	220 / 11
March	\$9,742.00	\$8,773.10	\$968.90	\$2,127.94	312 / 16
April	\$7,169.00	\$7,018.48	\$150.52	\$2,278.46	214 / 15
May	\$7,249.00	\$7,018.48	\$230.52	\$2,508.98	238 / 21
June	\$7,231.00	\$8,773.10	\$(1,542.10)	\$966.88	256 / 17
July	\$5,782.00	\$7,018.48	\$(1,236.48)	\$(269.60)	159 / 6
August	\$5,509.00	\$7,018.48	\$(1,509.48)	\$(1,779.08)	193 / 12
September	\$12,183.00	\$8,773.10	\$3409.90	\$1,630.82	240 / 19

The above totals do not include any designated giving for specific ministries.
 They only include the money given to support the 2024 budget.
 If you have any questions, please call me ~ *Janine Ballish, Treasurer*





Volunteer Opportunities

1) Would you like to be part of our Worship & Music Committee? - We are looking for volunteers to become part of the Worship & Music committee. Volunteers will work with Pastor Chris and Gregg LeMay and help choose music and make other preparations for our worship services. You do not have to have any musical background or ability to serve on this committee – only a love of music’s place in our worship services. Note: This is an ideal committee to work on if you like to be “behind the scenes” rather than “out front”. Please contact Pastor Chris or Gregg if you are interested. We will meet the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

2) We are creating a Church Safety Team—There are areas in our church and on our church grounds where we can improve our safety protocols should an emergency occur. If this interests you, please contact a Council member.

Sunday, November 3—All Saints Sunday—this service will include a service of healing. All who sense the need for God’s healing in any respect of their lives may join in prayer for others and themselves. Each

person may come forward to receive a word of blessing and prayer, with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ who is health and salvation for the whole world.

Harvest Home—Sunday, November 10—Needed to decorate church:

- Quilts Crocks Antique farm hand tools
 - Baskets Dried flowers Pumpkins (real or fake)
 - Spinning wheel Home canned goods Wooden crates
 - Fall garland Wagon (old) Wheel barrow (old)
 - Hay bales Corn stalks Old bushel baskets
- Please bring items to church by Sunday, November 3.
For more information, call Sandy Rossi 724-568-1342.

The Altar Flowers for October were given by Linda Murray in memory of Ray Murray.

Election Day Hoagie/Soup Sale—please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to place your order.

Thank you received—Council approved monetary donations from our Community Outreach funds to Vandergrift Library and Keystone Family Alliance. A thank was received from both of these organizations and can be found on the bulletin board.

In Sympathy—We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Faith Matthis who died on Friday, October, October 11.

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says our Lord. “Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25-26, NRSV).

To Pastor Chris and the members of St. Paul’s Highfield—Art & I would like to thank everyone for all their visits, phone calls, prayers and food. Each and every one was helpful and deeply appreciated. God bless you all and keep you safe. We love you all. ~ *Art & Sandi Summerhill*

Calendar of Causes—Each month we raise up a social ministry supported within our Synod. The loose offering collected the first Sunday of the month will go to this cause. Also, envelopes are located in the narthex for you to make a donation at any time during the month. November’s cause is HAVIN. HAVIN (Helping All Victims In Need), located in Kittanning, provides free and confidential services for anyone impacted by sexual violence, domestic violence and child abuse.

**Annual Meeting Dates
Sunday, November 17, 2024**

- To elect 2025 Congregation Council members (we are eligible to elect three people to serve a 3-year term on Council and we are seeking interested individuals to serve on this vital ministry. (Please see a Council member if interested);
- Approve the 2025 Budget (copies will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 3).

Sunday, January 19, 2025

- To approve reports of the ministries of 2024 and any other action necessary for mission in 2025.

All committees are required to submit a report. Please have them in the office by December 15.

Please plan on attending these meetings, your presence is important!

(Continued on page 5)

LOOKING AHEAD

Election Day Hoagie/Soup Sale

Tuesday, November 5

Hoagies \$10 Soup quarts \$10

An order form can be found in the narthex.

Calm

Friday, November 1, 6:00 pm

Hosted by Gregg LeMay

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 17, after worship service

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 24, after worship service

Turkeys will be provided.

Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Please sign up in the narthex so we can plan accordingly.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Saturday, December 21, 6:00 pm @ SPH

Santa's Workshop

Saturday, December 14, 9:00am - 12:00 pm

Hand made Christmas gifts/Crafts

Includes gift wrapping and a visit from Santa!

Donations needed:

Green chenille pipe cleaners	9" foam cones
Short candlesticks	Foam blocks
2" pom poms	Aquarium gravel
8x10 picture frame	Full-size Hershey bars
Small battery-operated string lights	
Battery-operated tea lights	Regular-size candy canes
Spaghetti sauce jars	

Any questions, call Peggy Willman (724-354-4484)

DRESSES and BRITCHES

Trick or treat to everyone!

When the ladies met at St. Paul's last week, they brought a lot of "stuff" with them. I wish that you could all have the opportunity to see what is on the table. Baby blankets, sweaters, hats, slippers, jumpers, dresses and pants! What a variety.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, November 7 at 1 p.m. in St. Paul's fellowship hall. This meeting will be a No Sew Day. We will be making fleece throws to go to Tennessee and Kentucky. So bring your scissors, yardsticks and masking tape or painters tape.

Looking forward to seeing those new faces. If you have any questions, please call Glenda at 724-567-6494.

2nd Chance--if you wanted to see the movie about Martin Luther, but weren't able to, mark your calendar for Sunday, Nov. 10th after worship. The movie takes 2 hrs and 15 mins, so you should be able to be on your way no later than 1 PM.

Gifted to SPH: A DVD, "Luther", which is in Pastor's office for anyone to borrow and in the library, Billy Graham's book, "Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well". (given by Pastor Chris in grateful thanks on the 18th Anniversary of her ordination).

Check this out—Judy Clark, Virginia Clark's daughter, has written a book called "However Long It Takes: "We got this, Mom"".

Judy was Virginia's caretaker/nurse for nearly four years after she was no longer able to live on her own following a blood clot that put pressure on her brain resulting in cranial surgery.

Judy kept notes and has written a beautiful entertaining story of Virginia's life after she lost her memory of most of her life but could remember her childhood like it was yesterday.

The book is available on Amazon or Christina Faith Publishing.

Continue to pray for:

- 1) The safety and health of all who are running for political office and for their families.
- 2) The importance of voting and making sure that our polling places are safe.
- 3) That the outcome of November's election will be clear/decisive.
- 4) That November's election results will be honored.
- 5) That after the election we, as Americans, will unite to work for the good of all.



FOOD BANK ITEMS

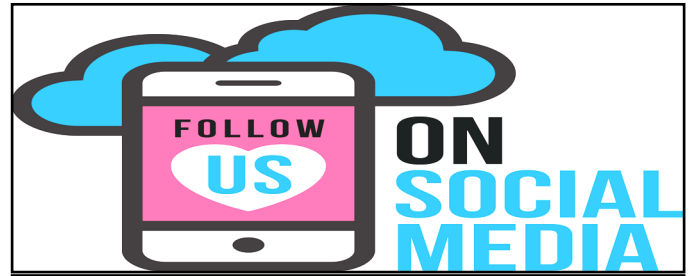
Below is a complete list of items for you to keep at home of the items that our food bank needs:

Boxed or canned potatoes	Canned vegetables—corn, peas, green beans
Canned fruit	
Pasta & Pasta sauce	Canned soup—tomato, chicken noodle, vegetable beef
Cereal	
Macaroni & Cheese	Peanut butter & Jelly
Rice mixes	Toilet paper
Canned tuna, chicken or ham	Paper towels
Canned baked beans or kidney beans	Hygiene products - toothpaste, soap, etc

Special items for Thanksgiving:

Canned yams or sweet potatoes	Pie crust mix
Boxed Stuffing mix	Cranberry sauce
Gravy (jar, can or dry)	Broth
Potatoes (can or dry flakes)	Cream of mushroom soup
Canned pumpkin	Green beans

Thank you in advance for any help you can offer.
God Bless—"The Food Bank Club"



Besides in person, you can join us for a live stream on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am on:



St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church



By phone, dial 646-558-8656.
Enter the meeting ID number 632 238 2087, followed by the pound sign (#) twice.
Enter the password 632 238 2087.



**ON SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 2,
REMEMBER TO TURN
YOUR CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR BEFORE
YOU GO TO BED.**



@ ST. PAUL'S HIGHFIELD

Don't forget to include our confined members in your prayers. Names, addresses, and birthdays are listed below.

Jean and Linda Bozzarelli
(February 27, October 2)
112 Oregon Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

LaRue Ciuca
1147 Crawford Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Martha Abarbanell
(May 31)
1166 Pleasant View Drive
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Sylvia Powell
Quality Life Services
151 Goodview Drive
Apollo, PA 15613

Kathye Schaeffer
(December 29)
Quality Life Services
151 Goodview Drive
Room #318
Apollo, PA 15613

Evelyn McGuire
(August 2)
Concordia Lutheran Ministries
615 North Pike Road
Building 4, Room 2306
Cabot, PA 16023

Event Announcement: **Calm**

Join us for an evening of tranquility and relaxation at “Calm”

Date: November 1st, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: St. Pauls Highfield Lutheran, 1595 Dime Rd, Vandergrift, PA 15690

Escape the chaos of everyday life and immerse yourself in a serene atmosphere. Our informal evening will feature:

- **Aromatherapy:** Breathe in soothing scents designed to calm your mind.
- **Candlelight:** Enjoy the gentle glow of candles, creating a peaceful ambiance.
- **Silent Prayer & Meditation:** Take a moment for silent reflection and meditation to center yourself.

Soothing Piano Melodies: Let the beautiful piano music played by Gregg Lemay wash over you.

This event is dedicated to helping you relax and relieve the stress of everything going on in the world and your life. Come as you are and leave feeling rejuvenated. You are welcome to come and go as you please.

We kindly ask that, because of the nature of this event, all cellphones be silenced during this time to not disturb those who are in prayer and meditation.

We look forward to sharing this peaceful evening with you.

Celebrate the miracle of harvest

October is the traditional harvest month for the Northern Hemisphere. We delight that summer produce is still available even as the fall crops are arriving fresh from the farms. It's truly a miracle – one that we too often take for granted, just as we take our food supply for granted.

This fall, spend some time pondering and celebrating the wonder of the harvest and the creative forces that God put in place to make our abundant food supply possible. While celebrating harvest, learn about threats and concerns facing farmers in our age of climate change. Celebrating and learning are appropriate tasks we take on as stewards of our earth and humanity's food supply.

We rightly honor the farmers who diligently plant, cultivate and harvest our fruits and vegetables, but we remember that they don't create the plant life that bears produce. No, it's God who creates all life. Farmers do the important work of optimizing their growth by ensuring the good soil, water and nutrients that plants need, but God is the miracle maker.

We can also think of the miracle of seasons that provide the rhythm for spring's seedtime, summer's flourishing, fall's harvest and winter's rest. Seasons, of course, were created by God, who tilted the earth 23.5 degrees in its orbit around the sun.

This fall, as you enjoy fresh produce from your local farm stand or supermarket, meditate on the miracle of plants, seasons, harvest, and abundant food. Work to help ensure the supply of delicious, nutritious food for generations to come.

--*Robert Blezard*

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All are welcome to join us

Join us for worship
Sunday Mornings
9:00 am in person and online (Facebook & Zoom)
All Saints Sunday November 3



St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church
1595 Dime Road
Vandergrift, PA 15690

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