

# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 34, Issue 11

November, 2011

St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.

Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

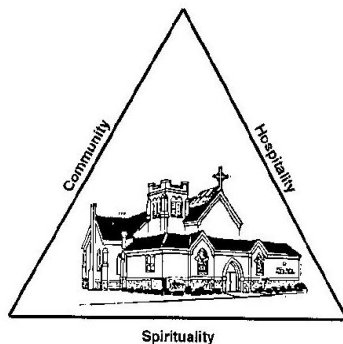
[espcoffice@embarqmail.com](mailto:espcoffice@embarqmail.com)

Rev. Ruth Solo

419/909-9102

Cell Phone: 419/812-3032

[espcpastor@embarqmail.com](mailto:espcpastor@embarqmail.com)



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Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that fall is half over and we are preparing for Thanksgiving already. Where has the time gone? As I think about Thanksgiving, I am reminded of the year my dad's small business that he bought after he got out of the Coast Guard folded. In 1955, he bought a Texaco service station in Cabin Creek Hollow, WV, where my mom's family was from, but the costs were more than what he'd prepared for. The business closed in 1956. Years later, I learned that there had been a recession in the 50's that likely contributed to the failure of Dad's business.

We moved into an apartment and my Dad took a bread route to try and pay the bills left from the business. I was four, my brother was five, and my sister was one. We had bean soup and cornbread for Thanksgiving that year. It was also my birthday, and since that was one of my favorite meals, I thought I had gotten just what I wanted for my birthday! When my mom's family found out what we had eaten for Thanksgiving, they made sure we got to go to the big family Christmas dinner.

I tell you that story because, as we face the holidays this year in America, there are many families who have been caught in the recession of the past three years. There are many families whose small businesses folded. There are many families whose wage earners have been laid off. There are many families who are in need through no fault of their own. They, too, are too embarrassed to tell family and others how bad it is. God has called us to care for one another, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. For this Thanksgiving, go the extra mile to see that no child has bean soup for the feast that celebrates our great day of thanks to God for all that we have.

## Places where you can make a difference for someone's Thanksgiving are:

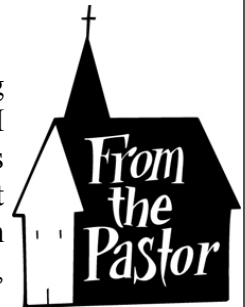
Five Loaves Food Pantry	(we give to this through the church)
West Ohio Food Bank	1380 Kibby St., Lima, 419-222-7946
Salvation Army	614 Market Street, Lima 419-224-9055
Our Daily Bread	125 S. Central, Lima 419-224-2086
Lima Rescue Mission	216 E. Wayne, Lima 419-224-6961
Samaritan House	328 W. McKibben, Lima 419-222-4663

Let's be thankful for all that God has blessed us, so that we can bless others in the name of Christ.

See you in church.  
Peace,  
Pastor Ruth Solo

## Thought for the Month:

If God brings you  
to it,  
God will bring you  
through it.





Most of us have to taste our need in a fierce sort of way before our hungers jar us into turning our lives over to God . . . In the Divine Arms we become less demanding and more like the One who holds us. Then we experience new hungers. We hunger and thirst for justice, for goodness and holiness. We hunger for what is right. We hunger to be saints. Most of us are not nearly hungry enough for the things that really matter. That's why it is so good for us to feel a gnawing in our guts.

- Macrina Wiederkehr  
from *A Tree Full of Angels*



### PASTOR'S HOURS:

**Pastor Ruth** will be in her office Monday through Thursday from about 9:30am to noon, and about 1:30pm to 4pm, unless there are meetings and visitations during those times.

**Please call ahead to be sure the pastor is in.**

#### **Vacation Days:**

November 8-13 (Corinne Piper preaching Nov. 13; call office for pastor care needs)

#### **Holiday:**

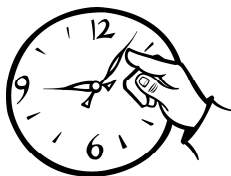
Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24  
(call pastor on cell phone for pastoral care needs)

### Coins for Communion

Coins for Communion on  
November 6, 2011, will benefit  
Lima Rescue Mission.

## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

# Thanksgiving



### Time Change

Turn your clocks **back** one hour on  
**November 6th.**

Remember that we "fall back"  
when Daylight Savings time ends.

### St. Paul's Epistle

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United Methodist Church

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Editor:	Judy Chaffins
Secretary:	Gail Fessler
Secretary:	Jone Lane
Organist:	Linda Holman
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Youth Director:	Corinne Piper
Custodian:	Dave Decker

### All Saints Sunday is November 6th.

We will remember those who have died in this world and entered into the eternal life. During the worship, we will light the candles in memory of people from the church who died this past year, after their names are read and the bell is rung, you will be invited to speak the names of your loved ones.

**Bring a white candle to place  
on the altar in memory of  
loved ones that have passed.**



## All Saints Day

Newsletter  
deadline:  
the **16th**  
of each month

## Food Pantry Giving Remains Strong

The people of St. Paul's Church continue to give faithfully to the *Five Loaves Food Pantry* at Allentown. In October we collected: 3 boxes of macaroni & cheese, 1 box of cake mix, 4 toothbrushes, 4 jars of peanut butter, 4 cans of tuna, 2 cans of sloppy joe mix, 4 jars of spaghetti sauce, 3 boxes of tissues, 3 bottles of shampoo, 8 boxes of cereal, 4 rolls of toilet paper, 9 rolls of paper towels, 6 cans of various types of beans, 3 cans of soup, 2 boxes of pop tarts, 1 can of spaghetti-o's and 1 bottle of detergent. *May God bless everyone who donated food.*

**Our next Food Pantry Sunday is November 13.**



## Praying Together



Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven, and grant that we who are filled with good things from Your open hand, may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

- from the Abbey of  
New Clairvaux, Viña, California



# Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

## Committees



### NOMINATIONS:

The Nominations Committee is continuing their work to fill positions on some of the committees for the church. If you receive a call, please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to the task.

**You are invited to join the Chancel Choir for the Christmas Cantata, to be performed on Sunday, December 18, 2011.**

Cantata: "Down From His Glory"  
The Love Story of Christmas

Cantata Rehearsals: beginning Wednesday, October 26  
7:00-7:45 PM

No rehearsal the Wednesday before Thanksgiving

Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, December 17,  
9:30— 11:30 AM

Performance: Sunday, December 18  
10:00 AM Service

A children's choir will be included as part of the Cantata. If you have friends, neighbors, or grandchildren who would like to be included in the singing of the Cantata, please contact **Judy Chaffins (419-331-8111)**.

# The Heart of Church

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The St. Paul's Missions Committee has been meeting almost on a monthly basis this year. During our **October 18, 2011**, meeting we addressed:

- 2011 Christmas Offering;
- Our annual hat/mitten Christmas tree offering;
- Lima-Area Methodist Men's Group; 5 Loaves Food Pantry; Family Promise;
- **Jamie Wyant** led another successful handicap-ramp construction project the weekend of Oct. 15. This one is across the street from our church – a bit to the east (toward Lima) – and is a wonderful example of what product our church and others produce in a very short amount of time. It is 78 feet long and drops 55 inches to provide ingress-egress for this local resident, Tom Stalter;
- **Jamie Wyant and Tim Piper** reported on our church's recent facility refurbishment work at Camp Wesley near Bellfontaine Sept. 25-27;
- **Maedene Holmes, Ruth Hardy, Pastor Ruth and Rich Solo** organized 34 school kit and 12 health kit donations by our congregation this year for delivery to Leipsic by Pastor Ruth and Rich on September 27;
- **Don & Mary Irvin and Larry & Shirley Moser** represented **St. Paul's** on Sept. 30 for our 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen mission. Next assignment is Dec. 31, 2011;
- We reviewed our annual Missions Sunday presentations from September 25. We believe we gave a good overview of Missions activities at St. Paul's during the past year;
- Coins for Communion designations for 2012 discussed as well as our mission status with the United Methodist Children's Home;
- 2012 initiatives, committee vision discussed in great detail.



Camp Wesley—Before



Camp Wesley—After

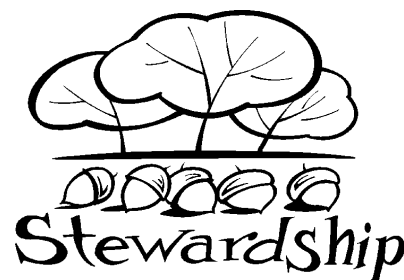
# The Business of Church

## CONSECRATION SUNDAY AND LUNCHEON ON OCTOBER 30TH

During the month of October, Pastor Ruth has been focusing the Sunday morning messages on a study series, ***“Enough - Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity”*** by Adam Hamilton. For the rest of October, Pastor Ruth has offered a one-hour study immediately before church, based on Hamilton's study. In addition to the Sunday morning messages and the study series, Bill McKinney and Lavonne Segovia have each given short talks about how God has worked in their lives to help them maintain balanced household budgets through simplicity. ***Thank you*** Bill and Lavonne.

This is all part of our month long Stewardship Committee program leading up to Consecration Sunday. On Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> the members of our congregation will be asked to prayerfully consider pledging financial support to the continuation of the ministries and mission of St. Paul's United Methodist Church so that we may continue to further God's Kingdom in Elida and beyond. We hope you will join us on ***Consecration Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>***, and participate by making a pledge as well as join us in fellowship for a ***Celebration Carry-in Pot-Luck Luncheon*** (please bring a covered dish - sandwiches and drink will be provided) immediately following our church service. May God add His blessing to the ministry being done by St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Tim Piper  
Stewardship Committee Chairperson



Book of Timothy



### Committee Chairs

<b>PPR Chair</b>	Linda Craft
<b>Trustees Chair</b>	Tim Theodore
<b>Finance Chair</b>	Art Holman
<b>Physical Plant Chair</b>	Ron Steiner
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gene Craft
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Jenessa Fletcher
<b>Education Chair</b>	TBA
<b>Administrative Council Chair</b>	Scott Fessler
<b>Worship</b>	Ruth Solo
<b>Nurture</b>	Martha Vazquez
<b>Stewardship</b>	Tim Piper
<b>Missions</b>	Marty White, Maedene Holmes

# Faith In Action

## Worship Attendance:

October 2, 2011	72
October 9, 2011	64
October 16, 2011	84
October 23, 2011	76

## Financial Giving

Weekly Need for  
Unified Ministry Budget  
\$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
October 2, 2011	\$4,283.00	\$677.81
October 9, 2011	\$4,128.00	\$374.00
October 16, 2011	\$2,134.02	\$337.88
October 23, 2011	\$1,853.02	\$1,207.00

## Greeters

November 6, 2011	Denny & Janna Thompson
November 13, 2011	Ruth Burgoon & Susan Nartker
November 20, 2011	Tim & Sue Theodore
November 27, 2011	Don & Mary Irvin



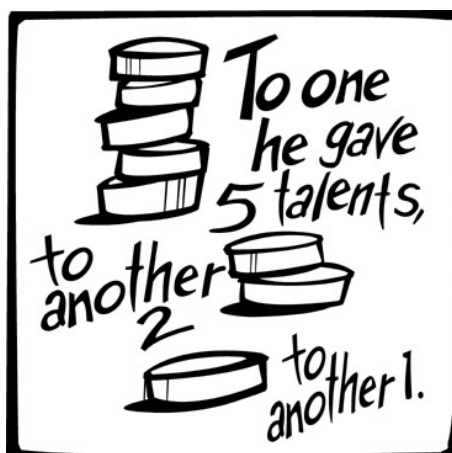
## Flowers:

November 6, 2011	Art & Linda Holman
November 13, 2011	Gary & Janet Grigg
November 20, 2011	Ruth Hardy
November 27, 2011	Rich & Ruth Solo



Visit The United  
Methodist Website at:  
[www.umw.org](http://www.umw.org)

# Consulting the Manual



## **Bible Readings for** Revised Common Lectionary Year A

### **Week of November 6**

#### **All Saints Day**

Color: White or Red

*Old Testament:*

Psalm 35: 1-10, 22

*New Testament:*

Revelation 7:9-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

### **Week of November 13**

Color: Green

*Old Testament:*

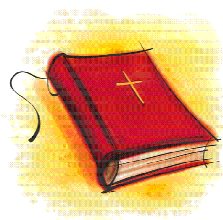
Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

*New Testament:*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30



## **Week of November 20** **Christ the King Sunday**

Color: White

*Old Testament:*

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

*New Testament:*

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

## **Week of November 27** **First Sunday of Advent**

Color: Purple or Blue

*Old Testament:*

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

*New Testament:*

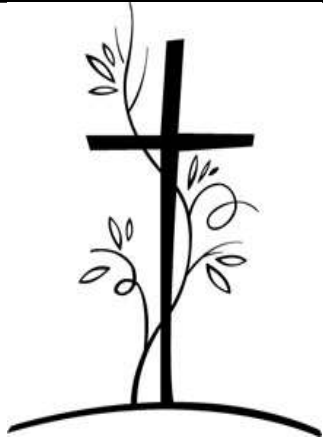
1 Corinthians 1:3-9

1 John 3:1-7

Mark 12:24-37

For more detailed information on the  
Revised Common Lectionary,  
please visit:  
[www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org)

## Live Hungry



November 1 is designated as All Saints' Day. We are speaking not just of an approved list of particularly holy people. This is a day to remember and honor all those ordinary Christians who have preceded us. And to speak of "All Saints" is to include present company. All Saints means you!

What, then, does it mean to be a saint? To sum it up in one simple sentence, a saint is someone who belongs to God. That's the root meaning of the word saint - "holy; that is, belonging to God." Sounds nice. But what does that mean in everyday living? How can we live out our sainthood, our belonging to God?

The beatitudes give a good description of a saint. Let's focus our attention on just one beatitude: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Interesting. I don't think we often picture saints hungering and thirsting. Aren't we much more likely to think of them as calm, peaceful, with an eternal beatific smile? We might think of them as contented. But Jesus points us to a condition of aching, yearning, hungering and thirsting; a sort of holy discontent.

What is the object of this desire? Righteousness - a word which in the Bible means far more than individual moral purity. It points to a complete and total "rightness"; an end to all brokenness and alienation in the world.

We could ask, "What's so saintly about this hunger?" The answer is that when we hunger for rightness, we belong to God in a special way, because we share God's aim. God is out to set things right in this rebellious, broken world.

It isn't easy to be a saint because it isn't easy to live hungry. Since God's goal to set the world completely right is so high, so beyond the range of our abilities, it's very tempting to lower our sights. It is very tempting to try to satisfy ourselves with lesser things - things that we can make happen by ourselves. We can end up trading the kingdom of God for the kingdom of financial security, or the kingdom of pleasure, or the kingdom of a small circle of family or friends. The problem with lowering our sights is that

these satisfactions finally don't last; finally don't satisfy.

When this happens another danger threatens: despair. We decide that there is finally no satisfaction for our hungry hearts, that life is just frustrating and futile, that there is nothing to do but dull the pain with drugs, alcohol, or cynical humor.

To be a saint is to stay hungry. It is to live in hope, settling for nothing less than the world made right. Christ has shown us how to live hungry. And he gives us the power to do it by giving us glimpses of God's kingdom in his own words and deeds and in those he has inspired.

This is what the church is for. The church is a place where we get and give glimpses of the kingdom. The church helps us stay hungry by challenging us with the word of God. We cannot come face to face with Jesus Christ in the Scriptures or on the cross and be content with the way things are. Jesus has called us to be the light of the world, to go the second mile, and to love our enemies.

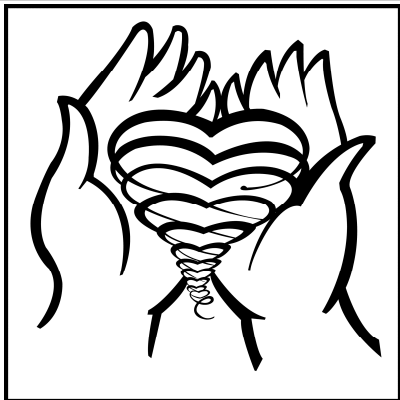
Blessed are you when you live hungry, in holy discontent. Remember that Christ has given us a foretaste of the feast to come. And he has promised that we will be satisfied. We have his word on it.

- Jeanette Strandjord,  
excerpted with permission  
from *The Clergy Journal*



**God's blessings never cease.**

# Advent Invitation



In the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, there is a wonderful painting of the Annunciation by the 13th-century Italian artist Simone Martini. In it a gentle and serious-faced angel kneels at the feet of Mary, and Mary is backing away in fear.

One of her hands has gone instinctively to the neck of her gown, as if protecting herself. The other is in the pages of an open book, keeping open the page she must have been reading when this strange visitation occurred, the page she hopes soon to return to.

These days I have more interest in the poets and artists who have sought to enhance our sense of the coming of Christ, than in trying to establish a literal interpretation of exactly how it happened. And I find myself attracted to Martini's painting.

The visual image spells out for me a reaction I frequently encounter in myself and others, and that is ambivalence about the holy. We are both drawn to it and yet frightened by it. We want to "be more spiritual" and yet we fear the transforming fire of the holy.

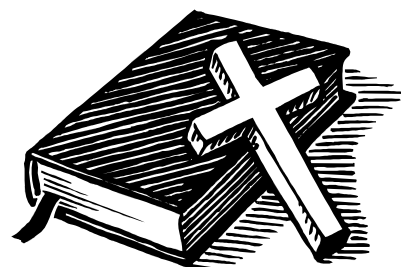
And the cost for most of us is related to time. In order to receive the invitation and be open to transformation (which is, after all, what the Christian journey is about) we need to carve out a little time and resist all that gets in the way of this. Yet, like Mary, we are somewhat afraid, and we really want to get back to the familiar things we are doing.

We all know it, deep down, but the rewards for our outer work and our outer appearances are more tangible than the rewards for what occurs in the secret places of our souls. Yet it is here that, like the angel kneeling before Mary, Christ kneels at our feet with the request to be incarnate in our lives.

In the acceleration towards Christmas and the end of the year, may we make a little time to ponder the invitation, and the request, made by the One who kneels lovingly, and respectfully at our feet. For despite all our self-doubts and apprehensions, this is the greatest gift.

- Ann Siddall

Ann Siddall is a Spiritual Director working within the life of the Uniting Church.



**I am the Bible,**

God's wonderful library. I am always - and above all - the truth.

To the weary pilgrim I am a strong staff.

To the one who sits in darkness, I am glorious light.

To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.

To him who has lost his way, I am a safe guide.

To those who are sick in sin, I am healing strength and forgiveness.

To the discouraged, I am a glad message of hope.

To those who are distressed and tossed about by the storm of life, I am an anchor sure and steadfast.

To those who search for salvation, I reveal the Savior of the world.

**I am the Bible.**



## Remember When...



Cherub Choir—November, 1991  
 Front:  
 Logan Smith, Aaron Thompson,  
 Tyler Smith, Cari Metzger, Caitlin  
 McGlade, David Segovia  
 Back:  
 Ashley Reiff, Kim Bowsher,  
 Chelsea Bowsher, Angie Gossard  
 Tara Thompson, Jon Cook

Relay For Life  
 Dinner  
 Nov. 13, 2005



Consecration Sunday  
 Dinner  
 November 9, 2008



## Connecting With ...

### Congratulations

to **Tim White and Katelyn Rumbaugh** on the occasion of their engagement. Both are graduates of Ohio Northern University in Ada. They are planning a September 8, 2012, wedding in Wooster, Ohio. Parents of the couple are **Tom and Lisa Rumbaugh** of Wooster, and **Marty and Kathy White** of Elida.



November brings harvest to an end  
And shortens the hours of light  
Available in the evening to spend,  
Prolonging the darkness of night.

Poem by,  
Jenessa Fletcher

### St. Paul's Vision Statement:

Is for the Elida community to be led to Christ through words and deeds enabling youth to have purpose, families to be nurtured and supported, and senior citizens to feel valued.

### Our Biblical Purpose Statement:

Elida St. Paul's United Methodist Church exists as God's people embracing His grace through humble service to all.

## Remember in Prayer

### Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Wilbur Hurd

### Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn  
Edna Osman  
Jean Redd  
Gladys Sherrick

### Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Joanna Hurd  
Rodney Lee  
Rick Scholfield

### In the Military & Missions

Jason Stanley



**Visit The United Methodist Communications website :  
[www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org)**

This website offers book reviews, music reviews, and web ministry information among other relevant and interesting links.

## The People of St. Paul's

### **St. Paul's United Methodist Church,**

*Thank you once again for the support you continue to show to Meals 'till Monday. As we are once again on the verge of expanding, the financial gifts are critical. Thank you for praying for and loving the kids in our community in this way. We are blessed by your partnership!*

**Sincerely,  
Meals 'til Monday**

**Thank  
You!**

*Thanks to Art Holman, Larry Moser, Corinne Piper, and Rich Solo for cleaning up the flooded fellowship hall amid two inches of rain October 19th!*

### **To Our Church Family,**

*Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. It is beautiful. We appreciate all your prayers and cards. There is no doubt that God has been with us during this change in our life. Our God is faithful and loving. Hope to see you in church real soon.*

**Love,  
Ivan and Martha  
Vazquez**

*Thank you so much to St. Paul's for building the ramp for Tom. We appreciate it very much. Special thanks to the men who helped with the ramp: Gene Craft, Scott Fessler, Oliver Fessler, Jeff Gast, Larry Moser, Tim Piper, Tim Theodore, and Jamie Wyant.*

**Sincerely,  
Tom and Janet Stalter**



**Prayer List Updates  
Please Contact  
Lavonne Segovia**

## Meetings

November 2, 2011  
Worship...6:00 PM

TBA  
PPR...7:00 PM

November 8, 2011  
Trustees...7:00 PM

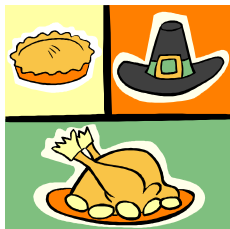
November 14, 2011  
Finance...7:00 PM

November 14, 2011  
Ad Council...7:30 PM

November 15, 2011  
Missions...7:00 PM

**Sundays**  
Bell Choir...9:00 AM  
Prayer...9:30AM  
Fellowship...9:30AM  
Worship...10:00 AM

**Wednesdays**  
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM



## Anniversaries

Justin & Marisa  
Kruse  
November 4

Bruce & Tammy  
Segovia  
November 16

# November 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Margie Best Cody Warris	2	3 Jacinda Fletcher	4	5
6	7 Jone Lane Kris Wade	8	9 Jonathan Cook Joshua Guess Worship	10 Kylee Loose	11 Virginia Hollar Jenson Nagy	12 Logan House
13 Dillon Staas 83 years	14 Finance Ad Council	15 John Holmes 91 years Trustees	16 James Fox	17	18 Dennis Bowsher	19 Gary Grigg
20 Rudy Segovia 85 years Marty White	21	22 Jason Lane Christie Lewis Tony Lozano Samantha Whetstone	23 Tony Shoup	24	25	26
27 Ruth Solo	28	29	30	Happy Thanksgiving		

# Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cookbook

## Pumpkin Pie

*by Myrna Metzger*

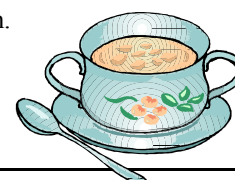
Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	brown sugar	<p>Preheat oven to 375 degrees.</p> <p>Mix in bowl: sugar, flour, and spices.</p> <p>Add and stir until smooth: pumpkin, milk, and egg.</p> <p>Pour into pie crust.</p> <p>Bake 50-55 minutes.</p>
1 Tbl.	flour	
1/2 tsp.	salt	
1 1/4 tsp.	cinnamon	
1/2 tsp.	nutmeg	
1/2 tsp.	ginger	
1/4 tsp.	cloves	
2 cups (1 can)	pumpkin	
1 can	evaporated milk	
1	egg, slightly beaten	
9 inch	pie crust	



## Potato Soup

*by Phyllis Trigg*

Ingredients		Instructions
8 medium	potatoes	<p>Dice potatoes, onion, and celery.</p> <p>Add enough water to cover the vegetables.</p> <p>Add salt, pepper, and celery salt.</p> <p>Cook until the vegetables are soft and tender. When tender, add 1 stick of margarine.</p> <p>Simmer until melted, then add 1 can cream.</p> <p>Continue to simmer for 5 minutes.</p>
4 stalks	celery	
1 medium	onion	
1 tsp.	salt	
	pepper to taste	
1 can	cream	
	water (to cover vegetables)	
1 tsp.	celery salt	
1 stick	margarine	

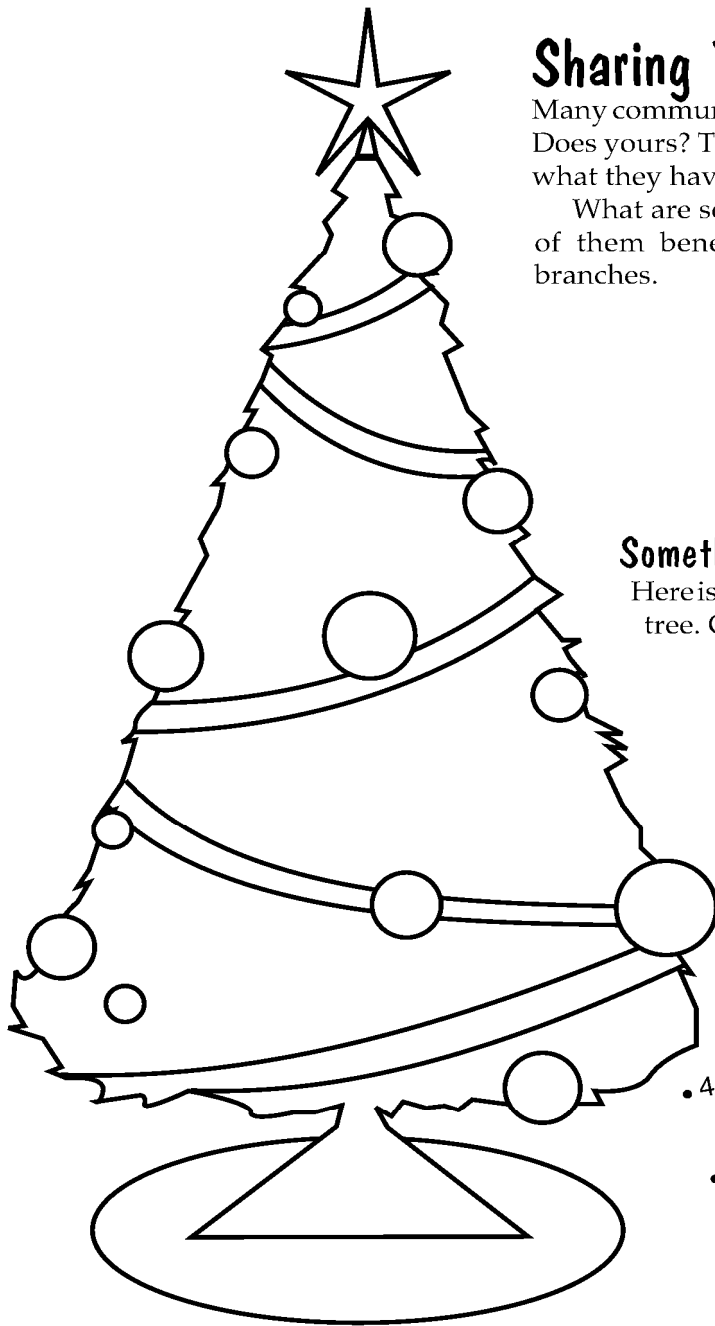


# KIDZ KORNER

## Sharing Trees

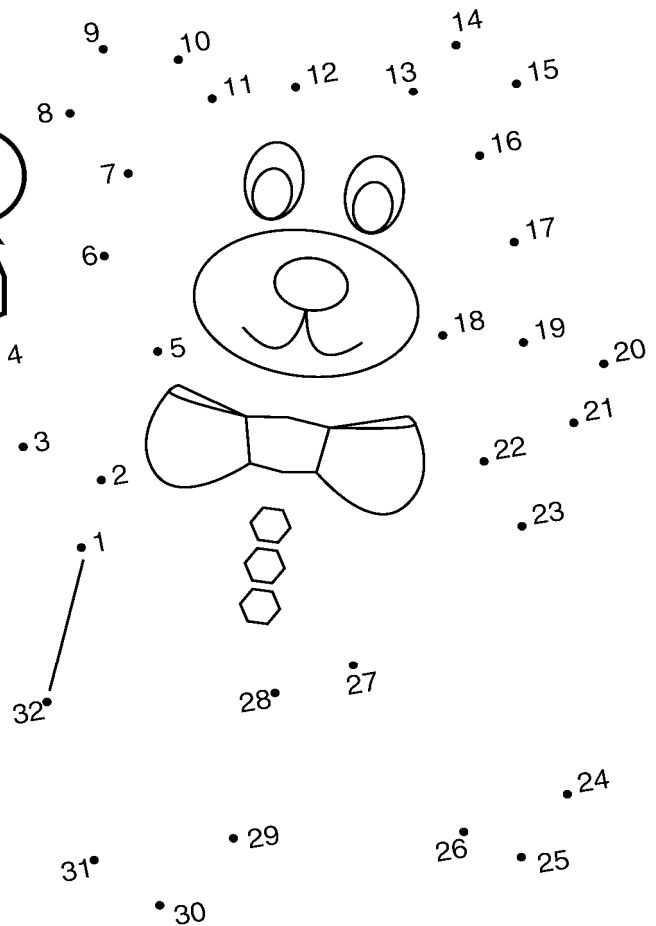
Many communities have "sharing trees" during Advent. Does yours? These are opportunities for people to share what they have with others.

What are some things you can share? Draw pictures of them beneath the sharing tree and decorate its branches.



## Something to Share

Here is something you could place under a sharing tree. Connect the dots and find out what it is.



**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

\*Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Elida, OH  
45807  
Permit No. 71

**Our Web Address:**  
**[www.elidastpaulschurch.org](http://www.elidastpaulschurch.org)**

# November 2011



## Living Our Faith

### An Offering Basket

What does the word offering mean to you? Sometimes it can seem like our giving is a sign that we are generous. While this is true, it is important to remember that everything we are and everything we have is a result of the love God gives to us.

When we approach giving in this way, the question becomes not how much do we give, but how much do we keep for ourselves? When we focus on God's abundance we take a broader view of what we have to offer.

Deuteronomy 16:17 tells us, "All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the

Lord your God that he has given you."

A blessing is the gift of divine favor; a special benefit. Think about some of the blessings in your life; then write them on a piece of paper. How important are these blessings to you? Sometimes what we give is not monetary; it can be something we make or do for others in thanksgiving to God.

To help your family remember all that you receive from God and all the gifts you have to share, make a family offering basket.

Put it in a place where your family will see it daily and talk together about the many ways you can use it. The basket can be a spot to gather pocket change, or you could drop in notes describing

ideas you have about helping others. It could collect stories that inspire you from the news or your church, or hold prayer petitions you want to share with your family. Maybe it can be all of these things, and maybe you have even more ideas!

Spend time with your family and friends talking and dreaming about how you want to use your money, time, and skills. Ask God to bless your offering basket as well as your gifts and make them blessings for others.

