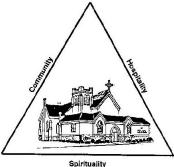
St. Paul's Epistle An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 40, Issue 11 November, 2017

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a note from the pastor

Cooler, shorter days can mean only one thing. Fall is in full swing. Birds and people are beginning to head south for the winter, crops are coming off the fields and turkeys will be on sale in just a few days. November is that time of the year we can wear shorts one day and see frost in the yard the next

morning. It is also the month we celebrate All Saints Day and this year we are remembering our loved ones on November 5th when we invite you to bring a white candle to remember those who have gone on to glory. We will be reading the names of those who have died since last year and glorifying God for the years we had with those we love.

Thank you for all you have given to the church and keep an eye out for progress on the heating and cooling system installation. It has been a busy time for our trustees, as they have worked long hours to make sure all the maintenance and upkeep is up to date in both the church and the parsonage. There have also been a lot of ramps installed in the last year which has depleted our ramp fund, so if you have been waiting for a mission of the church to give to, now would be the time. It is also possible there may be some movement in the Camp Wesley cabin build so be ready to come help with construction of the new cabin at Camp Wesley.

The after school program continues to hum along. A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers who make EASY a ministry of love to the children of Elida. Seniors Day Out continues to be a time of food and fellowship for the seniors of our church and community. A special thanks to everyone who works so hard to make this program such a success. And a final thank you to the Worship Committee who is getting ready for the Christmas Cantata and is helping me to plan a sermon series throughout advent that will compliment the music and theme of the cantata.

As you are preparing the big dinner or watching the big game this November, remember to give thanks to the One who makes everything possible: like our ancestors. Let us not forget where our blessings come from and celebrate those blessings by thanking God for all the wonderful gifts we have received through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

See you in the mission field, Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

God will help you handle all that you've been given.

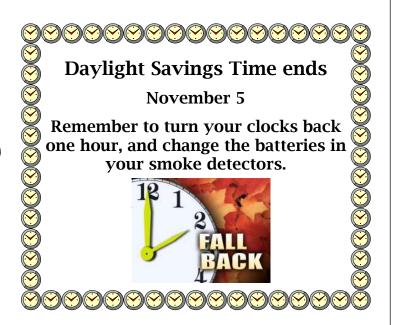
For All the Saints



All Saints Sunday November 5

At this time in the church year we think about saints – people who are examples of God's love. We thank God for them and remember saints whose lives enrich our faith.

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



November 5

Coins for Communion to benefit The Lima Rescue Mission

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

THANKSGIVING DAY November 23 Office Closed



St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

| Secretary | Gail Fessler |
|----------------|---------------|
| Newsletter | Jone Lane |
| Organist | Linda Holman |
| Pianist | Lois Cook |
| Choir Director | Judy Chaffins |
| Custodian | Dave Decker |

Christian Symbol



Crown

A crown, of course, symbolizes royal authority. As a Christian symbol it represents both Christ

as King of kings (Revelation 17:14, for example) and the eternal life promised to Christ's followers: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10, ESV).

Remember to start making or buying mittens, scarves, hats and gloves for our mitten tree.



Newsletter deadline: the **I6th** of each month

November 11, 2017



On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when "nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).

Thank You, Veterans!

Food Pantry Sunday November 12

Please continue to bring in non perishable food items for the food Pantry at The Church at Allentown

Seniors Day Out

Tuesday, November 21 At noon in the Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Elida After School Youth Program EASY Update!

Another, hopefully, successful year has begun with EASY! It is certainly a full Fellowship Hall! There are 32 students registered and more on a waiting list at school! Now that we have a couple of weeks under our belts, everyone seems to be settling in to the routine. We have lots of homework going on this year. We have started a banking project in which the students get paid (with EASY money) for completing homework, helping out without being asked, working during interest groups, etc. This money is "deposited" in their checking accounts. At a later date there will be an EASY Catalog sale where they can spend their money. This project involves filling out a check register, writing checks, ordering on an order form, figuring tax and shipping, and making choices—all needed skills.

We have begun interest groups with cooking, sewing, paracording, rocketry, chess and art. It's always exciting walking around and listening to their conversations and comments during this time.

With so many kids coming to visit us, we can always use volunteers to cook snacks, to help with homework, to do interest groups and to be a friend. If you know anyone or any group around the community with interested people, have them call the church!

Missions

Operation Christmas Child

Pack a Gift and Pray

A shoe box filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies tangibly demonstrates God's love to a child in need. Guides for how to pack a shoebox may be picked up in the church office or online at samaritanspurse.org. Remember to pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoebox gift, and that many children and families will come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Give

We ask for a donation of \$9.00 per box to cover international shipping and other costs, but not everyone can afford to send a gift. Your generosity beyond \$9.00 per shoebox gift will help us to reach even more children with the true meaning of Christmas and a tangible expression of God's amazing love.

Samaritans Purse National Shoe Box Collection week is November 13 to 20.

OUR DAILY BREAD SOUP KITCHEN

On Saturday, October 14th, Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen had their Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Helen & Dillon Staas and Deb Hurd were able to attend. A delicious dinner was served by Ms. Sharon Downton, the Kitchen's Chef and she had some help from other member church volunteers. We were entertained by the musical group "*Better Late Than Never*".

The work that is done at ODB is absolutely amazing. These **2016 Facts** showed the service they are providing to the Lima area and also the support from generous donations. God is good!!!!

Total Meals Served: 41,896 Average Count per day: 175

\$4,367.13 = amount of PURCHASED food for the ENTIRE year!!! ALL the rest was made possible through generous donations!!

The Members of St. Paul UMC are to be commended for their wonderful work they provide both monetarily and volunteers. It is a much needed service as you see as we reach out to others. God bless you all for your dedication to this need in our area.



Crafty Creatures

The Crafty Creatures Quilt Group of St. Paul's began meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings in September, 2010. We enjoy fellowship, fun, food, Bible study, and creating. We are knitters, crocheters, and quilters. Our hands are busy making prayer shawls, mittens, gloves, scarves and lap quilts for our church family, our community and beyond. We present a prayer shawl or lap quilt to people who need special healing. At Christmas time the mittens, scarves and gloves are placed on the mitten tree in the sanctuary. We also make various kinds of chocolate candy to sell at Christmas. Throughout the year the lap quilts are taken to area nursing homes and given to residents who need a warm quilt. We have also given children's quilts to the American Twp. Fire Dept., the Child Advocacy Center and children who have a serious illness. In our 7 years we have given 474 lap quilts to area nursing homes, 37 children's quilts and blankets to American Twp. Fire Dept. and Lima Child Advocacy Center, 60 prayer shawls and quilts to those needing a special blessing and healing touch, 142 comfort squares and 10 knitted knockers to Lima Memorial Women's Health Center. 6 walker bags to Van Crest of Delphos and 68 ambu bags to Sunshine Children's Home We love doing for others! In our 7 years, we lost 3 dear sisters: Dorothy Banks in 2013, Joanna Hurd in 2016 and Linda Matlock in 2017. We miss them very much and continue to do the work that they also enjoyed.



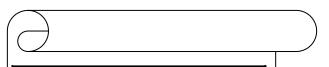






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Faith In Action



| Worship Attendance: | | |
|---------------------|----|--|
| October 1, 2017 | 98 | |
| October 8, 2017 | 94 | |
| October 15, 2017 | 78 | |
| October 22, 2017 | 94 | |
| | | |

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for Unified Ministry Budget \$3,466.00



| Unified Mini | Other: | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| October 1, 2017 | \$4,826.00 | \$7,187.65 |
| October 8, 2017 | \$9,68100 | \$3,707.80 |
| October 15, 2017 | \$2,365.00 | \$2,247.00 |
| October 22, 2017 | \$2,980.00 | \$3,722.38 |

| Sunday School Attendance | | |
|--------------------------|----|--|
| October 1, 2017 | 14 | |
| October 8, 2017 | 14 | |
| October 15, 2017 | 9 | |
| October 22, 2017 | 5 | |

| Greeters | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| November 5, 2017 | Steve & Tracy Sdao | | |
| November 12, 2017 | Margie Best & Jone Lane | | |
| November 19, 2017 | Travis Bok & Girls | | |
| November 26, 2017 | OPEN | | |

| Flower Calendar | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| November 5, 2017 | Art & Linda Holman | | |
| November 12, 2017 | Dillon & Helen Staas | | |
| November 19, 2017 | Gary & Janet Grigg | | |
| November 26, 2017 | Gary & Deb Hurd | | |

| Hospitality Cart | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|--|--|
| November 5, 2017 | Linda Holman | | | |
| November 12, 2017 | Barb & Greg Schade & Brittany Scannell | | | |
| November 19, 2017 | Margie Best & Jone Lane | | | |
| November 26, 2017 | Choir | | | |

Daily Bible Readings

Wednesday 11/1

Psalm 49, 119:49-72, Ezra 6:1-22 Revelation 5:1-10 Matthew 13:10-17

Thursday 11/2

Psalm 33, 50, Nehemiah 1:1-11 Revelation 5:11-6:-11 Matthew 15:29-39

Friday 11/3

Psalm 40, 51, 54, Nehemiah 2:1-20 Revelation 6:12-7:4 Matthew 13:24-30

Saturday 11/4

Psalm 55, 138, 139 Nehemiah 4:1-23 Revelation 7:(4-8)9-17 Matthew 13:31-35

Sunday 11/5

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84 Nehemiah 5:1-19 Acts 20:7-12, Luke 12:22-31

Monday 11/6

Psalm 56, 57, 58, 64, 65 Nehemiah 6:1-19 Revelation 10:1-11 Matthew 13:36-42

Tuesday 11/7

Psalm 61, 62, 68 Nehemiah 12:27-31a, 42b-47 Revelation 11:1-19 Matthew 13:44-52

Wednesday 11/8

Psalm 72, 119:73-96 Nehemiah 13:4-22 Revelation 12:1-12 Matthew 13:53-58

Thursday 11/9

Psalm 70, 71, 74 Ezra 7:(1-10)11-26 Revelation 14:1-13 Matthew 14:1-12

Friday 11/10

Psalm 69, 73 Ezra 7:27-28, 8:21-36 Revelation 15:1-8 Matthew 14:13-21 Saturday 11/11

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76, Ezra 9:1-15 Revelation 17:1-14 Matthew 14:22-36

Sunday 11/12

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Ezra 10:1-17 Acts 24:10-21, Luke 14:12-24

Monday 11/13

Psalm 77, 79 Nehemiah 9:1-26 Revelation 18:1-8 Matthew 15:1-20

Tuesday 11/14

Psalm 78, Nehemiah 9:26-38 Revelation 18:9-20 Matthew 15:21-28

Wednesday 11/15

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120 Nehemiah 8:1-18 Revelation 18:21-24 Matthew 15:29-39

Thursday 11/16

Psalm 83 Revelation 19:1-10 Matthew 16:1-12

Friday 11/17

Psalm 88, 91, 92 Revelation 19:11-16 Matthew 16:13-20

Saturday 11/18

Psalm 87, 90, 136 Revelation 20:1-6, Mark 16:21-28

Sunday 11/19

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67 Acts 28:14b-23, Luke 16:1-13

Monday 11/20

Psalm 89 Revelation 20:7-15 Matthew 17:1-13

Tuesday 11/21

Psalm 94, 95, 97, 99 Revelation 21:1-8 Matthew 17:14-21 Wednesday 11/22

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144 Revelation 21:9-21 Matthew 17:22-27

Thursday 11/23

Psalm 105 Revelation 21:22-22:5 Matthew 18:1-9

Friday 11/24

Psalm 102, 107:1-32 Revelation 22:6-13 Matthew 18:10-20

Saturday 11/25

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108 Isaiah 65:17-25 Revelation 22:14-21 Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday 11/26

Psalm 118, 145, Isaiah 19:19-25 Romans 15:5-13, Luke 19:11-27

Monday 11/27

Psalm 106, Joel 3:1-17 1 Peter 1:1-12, Matthew 19:1-12

Tuesday 11/28

Psalm 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, Nahum 1:1-13 1 Peter 1:13-25, Matthew 19:13-22

Wednesday 11/29

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130 Obadiah 1 1 Peter 2:1-10, Matthew 19:23-30

Thursday 11/30

Psalm131, 132, 133, 134, 135 Zephaniah 3:1-13 1 Peter 2:11-25, Matthew 20:1-16



St. Paul's College Students

2017/2018 COLLEGE STUDENTS

Reggie McAdams

University of Akron - Engineering

Torie McAdams

Toledo University - Occupational Therapy, Senior 2645 Greenway St. Toledo, OH 43607

David Scannell

Eastern Michigan University - Senior Bachelor of Science in Psychology 24811 Pennie St. Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

Emma Scannell

Hope College - Dance, Sophomore Cook Hall 206 141 E. 12th St. P. O. Box 9022 Holland, MI 49422-9022



United Methodist Student Day Sunday, November 26

Please keep St. Paul's college students and military members in your prayers. They all enjoy receiving cards and letters through out the year.

Address for **Oliver Fessler** while deployed:

LCPL Fessler, Oliver B V 2/2 MRF-E, DET-2 Unit 80132 FPO AE 09508-3200



Address for **Nathan Stewart** while deployed:

PFC Stewart, Nathan C-TRP, 4-9 Cav, 2ABCT, 1CD Unit 15949 APO AP 96224



Church History

On October 8, 2000, our congregation celebrated the burning of our mortgage. Bishop Bruce R. Ough, who was unable to attend, sent a congratulatory letter. Rev. Philip Brooks, Lima District Superintendent, participated in the church service with Rev. Heck. A catered dinner by Lock Sixteen following the worship service was held at Elida Middle School. Rev. Eric McGlade, Rev. Allen Puffenberger, and Rev. James Kuhn, past ministers at St. Paul, spoke at the festivities. There was a display of our church building history and some musical guests performed. It was an important day in the life of our church.

St. Paul's Youth Group, under leader Brad Joseph, was very active. One popular event was playing volleyball at Elida School one Sunday afternoon.

The Middle School Sunday School Youth painted their own personal block on the wall in their classroom.

In 2001, Brad Joseph, who is our youth leader and also a pharmacist, went on a Medical Mission Trip to Nuevo Progresso, Mexico. Many patients walk several miles to come to the clinic to be helped.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, affected everyone. Rev. Heck was out of town on vacation at this time. Rev. James Kuhn led a solemn, meaningful worship service the following evening for anyone in the community to attend.

On December 16, 2001, five youth were confirmed. They were Jonathan Blewitt, Jenessa Fletcher, Andrew Piper, Logan Smith, and Aaron Thompson.

December 30, 2001, was Rev. Heck's last Sunday to preach at St. Paul's. She was honored during the service and given a gift of a necklace. After the service a carry-in luncheon was held in the fellowship hall. Lois Rabley, Gene Craft, Todd Hanes, Norm Grisgby, and Dwain Metzger each spoke. Myrna Metzger made a beautifully decorated cake that was served after the dinner. Terry said her goodbyes to everyone afterward and headed to Dayton, Ohio, where she and her husband, Brooks, will live while she serves a Methodist Church there.

The Kononia Class held their New Year's Eve party at the home of Jan and Jamie Wyant on Dec. 31st. The children of the class members attending had their own party upstairs at the Wyant home.



October, 2000 Celebration of the Mortgage Burning



December, 2001 Rev. Heck's last Sunday

Remember When...



November, 1986

Lori Chaffins shares her My Little Ponies with Angela Gossard.



November, 2000

Middle School Youth painted their own personal block on the wall in their classroom.







November, 2007

Basement Renovation

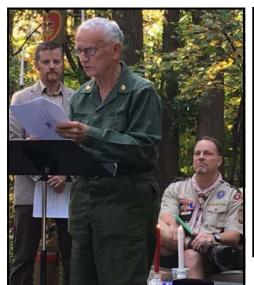


Connecting With ...

Congratulations to Lena Whetstone for being selected as the flower girl for Spencerville High School's homecoming court.







Eagle Scout ceremony for Peter Wurster, Grandson of Norm and Mary Grigsby.

Norm wore one of his naval officer uniforms for the first time in decades as he gave remarks reminding all of us of our obligation to honor our country. In turn, Peter honored his grandad with a special Eagle pin reserved for those who have played an instrumental role in the Eagle Scout's life.



Congratulations to Isaac McAdams and our Elida Bulldogs for a big 51-50 win over Kenton on Oct. 20th! The win puts Elida in the hunt for a playoff spot.

Go Dawgs!







The People of St. Paul's

Dear St. Paul Family,

I want to thank you all for the prayers, thoughts and cards during my recent hospitalization. Especially to Pastor Paul for his visits and for the flowers from the church. It is very comforting to know that God uses you as my comfort and support.

I also want to thank you for the prayers, words of comfort and the gift of wind chimes during my brother David's struggle with cancer and his death. I know that he appreciated the cards and visits (especially from Pastor Paul) that he received and all of our family was comforted by your efforts, especially the dinner following the funeral. Thank you to all who contributed food and helped in the kitchen.

Blessings, Jamie Wyant



Your generosity is overwhelming! Thank you so much. Your care and concern is fantastic. Hope to be back to church very soon.

> Peace and blessings to each of you! Lois Rabley



Cindy Guess Mamie Wyant

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn M Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Karen Bible Jan Sodders

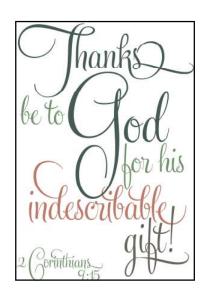
In the Military & Missions

• જ્યોર્ક જ

Oliver Fessler Nathan Stewart

Dear St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Thank you so much for the donated blankets. Our kiddos will love them.

> Thank you! Leigha CAC director





Congratulations to Aaron Piper and Alexandria Aufdenkamp on their marriage, October 19, 2017 in Park City, Utah. Cards will reach them at 62 Salzburg Blvd. Apt. G, Columbus, Indiana, 47201



November 1, 2017 Worship Mtg....6:00 PM

No PPR Meeting

November 7, 2017 Trustees...7:00 PM

No Finance Meeting

November 13, 2017 Ad Council...7:00 PM

Prayer **Sunday Schoo** Fellowship. Worship...

Chancel Choir

November 2017

Tue Wed Thu Sun Mon Fri Sat

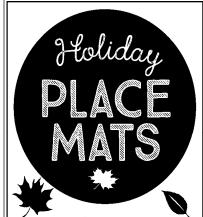
| No Missions Sundays Prayer8:45AM unday School.9:00 AM Fellowship9:30 AM Worship10:00 AM | 5 | NOVEN BIRTHDAY | BER 7 | 1 Margie Best Cody Warris | 9 | 3 Jacinda Perry Dalton Poling | 11 |
|--|-------------------|---|-----------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| hancel Choir7:00 PM | - | | Jone Lane | | Jonathan Cook Joshua Guess | Kylee Loose | Virginia Hollar Jenson Nagy |
| ANNIVERSARIES ANNIVERSARIES Justin & Marisa Kruse November 4 Bruce & Tammy Segovia | 12 Logan House | 13 Dillon Staas | 14 | 15 John Holmes | 16 Amber Moorman | 17 | 18 Dennis Bowsher |
| November 16 | 19 Gary Grigg | 20 Rudy Segovia Marty White Brinley Edwards Brody Edwards | 21 | 22 Jason Lane Christie Lewis Tony Lozano Samantha Whetstone | 23 Piper Kinney Tony Shoup | 24 | 25 |
| THANKS | 26 | 27 Terry Bok | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

| Crock] | Pot Mac & Cheese | e |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| Ingredient | ts · | By Margie Best Instructions |
| 16 oz. box | Macaroni, cooked | |
| 1 lb. | Velveeta cheese | Use a 5 quart crock pot. |
| 4 cups | Shredded cheddar cheese | Mix ingredients and cook in crock pot for 2 hours |
| 1 can | Cheddar cheese soup | low. |
| 1 can(12oz) | Evaporated milk | |
| 1 1/4 cups | Milk | |
| 1 stick | Margarine | A 16 Miles |
| 2 | Eggs, beaten | |
| 1/8 tsp. | Paprika (optional) | |

| Pumpkin | Pie Cake | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Ingredients | | By Shirley Moser Instructions |
| 1 can (29 oz.) | Pumpkin puree | Preheat oven to 350 degrees. |
| 1 can (12oz) | Evaporated milk | Lightly grease 9 x 13 inch baking dish. |
| 3 | Eggs | In a large bowl, combine Pumpkin, evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, salt and pumpkin pie spice. Mix well. Pour batter into baking dish. |
| 1 cup | Sugar | Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over pumpkin, mixture. |
| 1/2 tsp. | Salt | Melt butter, and drizzle it over the cake mix. |
| 4 tsp. | Pumpkin pie spice | Sprinkle walnuts over the top. (optional) |
| 1 pkg. | Yellow cake mix | Bake 55 to 60 minutes, or until done. |
| 3/4 cup | Butter | |
| 1 cup | Walnuts, chopped (optional) | |
| | | etrollembykatacem |

KIDZ KORNER



Add fall décor to your family's Thanksgiving table by making these festive place mats.



What you need:

- Large pieces of paper 1
- Several large leaves
- Crayons (fall colors)
- Fine-tip permanent marker

What you do:

- 1. Working on a flat surface, place the leaves underneath the paper.
- 2. Peel the wrappers off the crayons. Rub crayons sideways over the paper so the details of the leaves become visible.
- 3. Use other crayons to add additional details, if desired. With the marker, list what you're thankful for and add a Bible verse about thankfulness.
- 4. Optional: Laminate the place mats so they're reusable.



CIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.









A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

| | | " | will | | | | | | | _ | |
|-------|---|----|------|----|--------|----|--------|----|----|----|------|
| | | 9 | | 16 | 18 | 1 | 9 | 19 | 5 | | |
| | | | , | | name | in | | | | | |
| | 7 | 15 | 4 | 19 | | | 19 | 15 | 14 | 7 | _ |
| and _ | 7 | 12 | | 18 | 9 6 | | 25 | 8 | 9 | 13 | with |
| | 8 | 1 | | | 19 | 7 | 9 | 22 | 9 | 14 | 7 ." |

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St. Elida, OH 45807

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Living Our Faith

Exercising Our Gratitude Muscles

Expressing gratitude isn't just a good thing to do; it also appears to be good *for* us! Indiana University researchers found that participants who performed gratitude-focused writing exercises felt uplifted, and were more likely to express gratefulness through generosity, even weeks later. Furthermore, brain scans revealed increased gratitude-related activity even months down the road (*New York Magazine*).

Though the study was small, we seem to have a "gratitude muscle" that can be strengthened through exercise. If so, there may be more than we thought to the popularity of gratitude journals and Mom's insistence that we write thank-you notes. Not to mention the biblical call to "give thanks to the LORD, for he is good" (1 Chronicles 16:34, for example).

Might God have hardwired us for gratitude — not only at Thanksgiving but year round — because it's good for *us* as well as for those we thank? To that, we respond, "Thanks be to God!"

Communing With Nature

In *More Than Words* (Westminster John Knox), Erin Wathen tells of serving as pastor at a church where, following communion, the children take the leftover bread outside for the birds. One day, Wathen's own youngsters were playing church when they summoned her to a "meeting" for a new church plant.

The kids had planned the building layout, an order of worship, a prayer garden, a grand-opening picnic — and something else, which Wathen didn't initially understand. Then her heart swelled with joy, recognizing that her daughter meant the post-Eucharist disposal of bread, which clearly, to the child, was a natural and assumed part of church. "[We need]

a place," the girl stated casually, "for the animals to have communion."

