

From Pastor's desk...

November 2021

Dear Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

Harvest is coming to a finish. Leaves are abandoning their branches. Animals are gathering for the Winter, and we are on the path to a new Church Year!

Thanksgiving signals the imminent close of the old year, the "Non-festival half," as confirmands learn to call it. Now, we are on the threshold of the "Festival half" of the New Church Year.

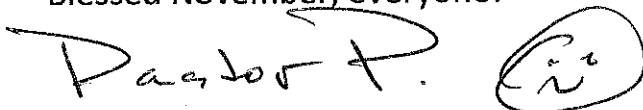
Thanksgiving is also the day that we gather, not goods for the Winter, but as a collective "Thanks be to God" for the manifold blessings we received during the previous year. We will again gather after our service on November 14th for a renewal of our "Congregational Fellowship Thanksgiving Dinner." Turkey, ham, and all the traditional trimmings will bless our meal together.

In a higher sense, we receive food for both body and soul as we gather for the Lord's Supper. Here, Jesus himself is host and meal, a miracle of such sacramental proportions that we cherish and protect them according to God's Word and Jesus' institution. This meal is not limited to one day each year, but to the many days we are privileged to receive it.

So, as our thoughts turn away from Summer and its glories, we rejoice in the glory of God, whose blessings we celebrate every day, looking forward to heaven's unspeakable beauty and peace, even as we celebrate Holy Communion as "a foretaste of the feast to come."

Welcome, New Church Year! Welcome splendid festivals of our most holy faith! Welcome visitors whom we invite to join in the festivities. And welcome Jesus when He comes again, perhaps soon!

Blessed November, everyone!

Pastor P. 

< Results for **matthew harrison****Resources for navigating COVID-19 vaccine mandates****From:** LCMS Office of the President <infocenter@lcms.org>**To:** Donald Pritchard <revdfp@aol.com>**Date:** Fri, Oct 1, 2021 4:22 pm

We live in challenging times, and these resources are meant to help each Christian navigate the issues brought up by vaccine mandates.



OCT. 1, 2021

LCMS.ORG

Personal remarks from President Harrison about COVID-19 and vaccines

Dear People of the LCMS,
 We live in disturbing times. Jesus' words on the night of His betrayal are ever true: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).
 The resources that follow this note are mostly self-explanatory, but I want to make a few somewhat personal remarks to you before you read on. This COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the world, as well as us as Christians individually and corporately as a Synod. LCMS individuals, congregations and districts have taken different attitudes and approaches to the challenge. This is due to a variety of factors: the intensity of the disease; cultural and political contexts; and our own varying views on the medical, social, political and — to some extent — religious issues involved. Government intrusion into churches through various regulations — attempted by states and municipalities across the nation — has even resulted in attempts to regulate our sacred practice of Holy Communion (the holy of holies where government has no place). This has been troubling. In many cases, we have seen governments treating churches unfairly, even closing churches while leaving theaters or clubs open. Local and state governments have taken advantage of COVID-19 to push regulations into our parochial schools, where such state regulation has not existed before. I, for one, am deeply concerned about increasing government overreach into areas of the First Amendment. "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). And I aim to resist this increasing encroachment wherever and whenever I can.
 The vaccine issue is challenging from a legal perspective. Those most interested have deep personal, medical and religious concerns about government mandates. Unfortunately, constitutional case law has for a century upheld the government's ability to mandate vaccinations. Some legal experts have not wanted to challenge this because of what appears to be an impossibility of legal success. Expected presidential mandates that force companies and nonprofits to release or terminate unvaccinated employees will be challenged legally from various directions. I believe — and so do others — that such mandates for churches violate the "free exercise" clause of the First Amendment, because they would force the termination of pastors and called workers in larger church institutions who refuse vaccination. Our military chaplains are increasingly pressured by the LGBTQ agenda of the U.S. military. In addition, those chaplains who have conscientious objections to the vaccine mandate are now faced with the question of continuing to serve or leaving the military. Thus far, free speech protections still remain, thank God.
 The LCMS has no official position on vaccines in general or the COVID-19 vaccines in particular. We are not "anti-vaxxers." I'd venture that the majority of LCMS clergy are vaccinated. I am. I've been saddened many times at the loss of personal friends, including a number of pastors. I know that the majority of those hospitalized are unvaccinated. I know that the death rate for COVID-19 increases dramatically for those unvaccinated. But still, death occurs mainly among those with other health conditions. I also know that the risk of death overall is very small. I know that healthy young people rarely die, and that for the vast majority the symptoms are fairly insignificant. My two sons and their spouses have all had COVID-19. Thankfully, they recovered well. Many have not been so fortunate.

As the following resources note, the vaccines, in various ways (development or testing), made use of stem cells from aborted babies. This is limited to two lines from two babies from 36 and 48 years ago. I was able to obtain the vaccine that is less morally problematic, but it is still problematic. I was present in the White House when President George W. Bush limited research to such lines and ensured that no others would be taken from later or current abortions. We gave thanks for that. But this remains an ethical quandary that has to be judged by each Christian conscience. I respect that. So does your church. And we want to be as helpful as we can. Please give charitable attention to these documents.

"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:23).

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Resources

Visit [lcms.org/vaccinemandate](https://www.lcms.org/vaccinemandate) for these resources:

- LCMS President Harrison's update following the White House vaccine mandate announcement
- Facts and considerations about COVID-19 vaccines
- Q&A regarding vaccines and the government mandate
- LCMS Life Ministry video and articles
- Information from Alliance Defending Freedom

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The Pleasant Plains Community Club will be hosting the 2nd Annual Wreaths and Trees this year. This event will be held at the Pleasant Plains Community Building. We will continue to follow COVID rules as needed.

This event will have donated, decorated Christmas trees, wreaths and a Silent Auction. If you wish, you may decorate your donated item at the building. We will have it open on November 17, 18 and until time to open to the public on November 19. The dates for seeing the beautiful items will be on November 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 and on December 3 and 4. The Silent Auction will conclude at close of business on December 4. We will also have a 50/50 drawing, concluding on December 4.

We will need your item or items by November 19.

We hope this will be of interest to you in helping with this fundraiser with your donation. Please ask your friends, family, employees or groups to help you. We know you can create beautiful items. **If you can contribute a tree, wreath or silent auction item, please contact Shirley Theilen (217 415-2976) by November 1, 2021. If you are able to help us with this fundraiser, a follow up letter will be sent to you.**

Proceeds from this event will be used for scholarships for Pleasant Plains High School Seniors and community projects.

November Celebrations



Birthday's

<i>Patsy Klekamp</i>	<i>11/5</i>
<i>Benjamin Morgan</i>	<i>11/6</i>
<i>Jane Webster</i>	<i>11/10</i>
<i>Chris Carter</i>	<i>11/14</i>
<i>Sue Matzat</i>	<i>11/15</i>
<i>Peggy Jurgens</i>	<i>11/16</i>
<i>Ben Pritchard</i>	<i>11/16</i>
<i>Thomas Darnell</i>	<i>11/18</i>
<i>Jean Morgan</i>	<i>11/21</i>
<i>Robison Carter</i>	<i>11/25</i>
<i>John Edie</i>	<i>11/28</i>
<i>Alan Cowhick</i>	<i>11/29</i>
<i>Cindy Saylor</i>	<i>11/29</i>



Baptism Birthday's

<i>Jeff Jurgens</i>	<i>11/1</i>
<i>Megan Clark</i>	<i>11/2</i>
<i>Michelle Clark</i>	<i>11/2</i>
<i>Emery Greene</i>	<i>11/8</i>
<i>Elise Greene</i>	<i>11/14</i>
<i>Michele Stremsterfer</i>	<i>11/14</i>
<i>Elliott Schneider</i>	<i>11/16</i>
<i>Grace Bowen</i>	<i>11/21</i>
<i>Thomas Darnell</i>	<i>11/23</i>
<i>Benjamin Morgan</i>	<i>11/26</i>
<i>Nathan VanZeLe</i>	<i>11/26</i>
<i>Alli Van Veldhuizen</i>	<i>11/28</i>
<i>Olivia VanZeLe</i>	<i>11/29</i>

Wedding Anniversaries

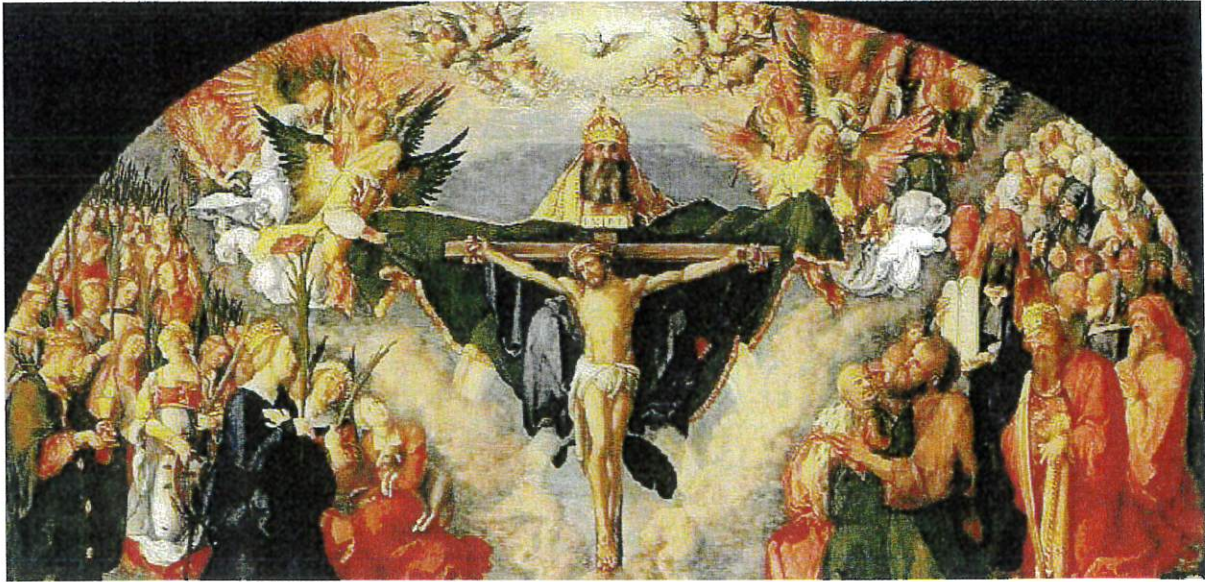
<i>Fred & Shirley Hagen</i>	<i>11/6</i>
<i>Brian & Shannon Rennecker</i>	<i>11/10</i>
<i>Tim & Bridget Wieland</i>	<i>11/25</i>
<i>Carl & Cindy Saylor</i>	<i>11/28</i>



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**1 Corinthians
15:42-49**

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first

He Still Calls

Thursday of Pentecost 17
24 September 2021

God calls to the man Adam; seeking the one who has hidden himself in shame, fear, and despair, "Where are you" (Gn 3:9)? He is the seeking God as much today as He was at the beginning of time. He calls you now. He comes to seek and save that which was lost. He never stops. He is coming. He is coming. He is coming. Coming to save.

We hear this message that He returns to us only as a threat and we flee. Yet how fatherly He was even to our forebears when seeking them. They had broken His will. They had doubted His Word to them. His promise was considered useless. He had every reason to cast them off forever. His wrath could have burned through Eden, undoing in a second all that He had created in a week of

man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (ESV)

careful, loving toil. It was all for them and they had rejected Him and His precious gifts.

What could they say in the face of the God they feared. Adam stammers out His accusative excuse: "It was her and it was You, who made her!" In his spiritual confusion his conflicting thoughts accused or even excused them (Rm 2:15). He went from bad to worse in a heartbeat; a heart now racing in fear of God. They weren't very good at confession, were they? Nor are we any better. We all howl, "It's not my fault!" It's her fault! It's his fault. It's Your fault!

When God calls, "Where are you?" How do you answer? You flee and hide and blame and make excuses just like them. You are lost like them. You are running like them.

But like them, God will not leave you wandering the mazes of the broken and dying human spirit. Our enemy He has put down, making him a belly crawler whose head will be crushed by the One whom He has sent.

There is no way to answer the call, "Where are you?" without knowing of the Offspring sent by God to suffer and in that suffering to crush the head of our enemy. When God calls for you, when His agonized love seeks you and calls you, "Where are you?" He knows the answer. You cannot hide. He knows the answer. You cannot run where He cannot go.

He gives the answer! The Offspring will answer for you, "Here I am!" In Isaiah the prophet, He says, "My people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am" (Is 52:6). When He calls the Son of God answers for us. He becomes what Paul calls the last Adam. "The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit" (1Co 15:45). The first Adam became the death-bringer. The last Adam, Jesus, became the life-giver.

Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Memorial Lutheran
Church



Martin Luther

“After their conscience has been convicted by the Law and they feel their disgrace before God and themselves, Adam and Eve lose their confidence in God and are so filled with fear and terror that when they hear a breath or a wind, they immediately think God is approaching to punish them; and they hide. I, too, think that by the voice of the Lord, who was walking about, Moses means the wind or the sound of the wind, which preceded the appearance of the Lord. Similarly, in the Gospel Christ says of the wind ([Jn 3:8](#)): “You hear its sound.” When they heard the leaves rustling as if they were being moved by the wind, they thought: “Behold, now the Lord is coming to demand punishment from us.”

“Therefore, when Moses later adds: ‘Toward, the wind of the day,’ it seems to me that he is explaining himself, as if he were saying: ‘There was a sound like that of the wind of the day,’ so that emphasis lies on the word ‘day.’ He does not refer to the wind in the night, because he wants to lay greater emphasis on the prodigious fear which followed sin, as if he were saying: ‘They were so fearful that even in the bright light of day they were afraid of the rustling of a leaf.’ What would have happened if God had come in the dark and during the night? For then the terror is far greater. Just as light makes men courageous, so darkness increases their fear. This fear, which overtook Adam and Eve in the very light of day after their sin, is a clear indication that they had fallen completely from the faith.”

Martin Luther, *Lectures on Genesis*, 3.9

Prayer

Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen

humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For all Christians as they live out their lives in service to their neighbors, that they would find their joy made complete in Christ and fulfilled in that life of service

For all earthly fathers, that they may reflect the love and compassion to their families that the father of all mercies and grace has shown to them

For those who travel, that their ways would be made safe and their homecomings would be joyful

Art: DÜRER, Albrecht *The Adoration of the Trinity* (1511)



Contact Us



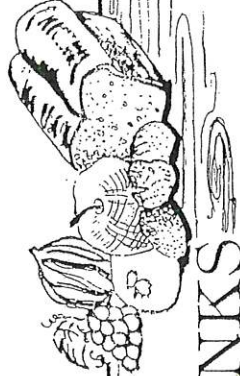
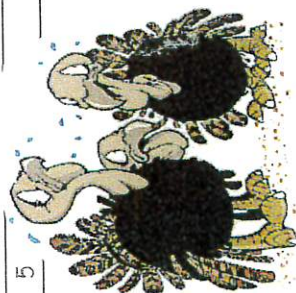
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Hail all,
to our
veterans

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service - All Saint's Day - 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.						
14	15	16	17	18 Church Council 6:45 P.M.	19	20
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion - 10:15 A.M. Congregational Thanksgiving Potluck Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.			Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 P.M.			
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion - 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.			Midweek Advent Service Supper 6:00 P.M. Service 7:00 P.M.			
5	6	Notes: Elder Dennis Boesdorfer				
		Congregational Thanksgiving Potluck - November 14 Thanksgiving Eve Service - November 24 7:00 P.M.				



LET'S GIVE THANKS

Zion's Newsletter

November, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. Don Pritchard
525 North Cartwright
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Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Adult Bible Class 9:00 A.M.
Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

LCMS

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