

St. Paul's Happenings

A Publication of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Manheim

November 2026

Making a Difference Through the Love of Christ – to Know God, Love God & Serve God

Hello St. Mark! By Pastor Bill Long

When Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, our gospel for the year will be from Mark. Perhaps we sometimes imagine gospel writers as if they were modern writers, looking at their laptop, hanging out at the local coffee shop, writing a truly good story.

The truth is that Mark's gospel is driven by a massive crisis that is haunting the early Christian church. Mark's story about Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, is being told in the midst of the rubble of Roman Destruction!

Mark does not have the comfort of Luke's gospel of the Christmas Story, which is kind of a coziness, of Christmas cookies, and hot chocolate! Mark does not have Matthew's list of Biblical relatives or great gifts being given by We Three Kings.

Mark does not have the introduction of John's great "In the beginning…" Mark's story moves at the speed of race car drivers. He uses words like immediately, then, after this. There is no time to catch your breath. Mark has to deal with the destruction of the temple. Mark only has sixteen chapters and he is in a hurry.

The flipside of the story is that Mark wants to quickly get to this: The Beginnning of the Good News of Jesus Christ! Mark's gospel is about The Gospel and the gospel is about Jesus Christ!

Put another way: It's about Jesus and it's only The Beginning! Mark will take verses 1:2-16:8 to tell the story. However, the most interesting point is that just after verses 1:1-1:2, Mark starts to talk about The Good News of God! Since Jesus is preaching, keep your ears opened. The Good News of God refers to The Kingdom of God has come near! This gospel is just the beginning, but like God, it's getting closer.

Mark's Gospel is about Jesus Christ, yet it also shows the fulfillment of God's Kingdom purposes. But we must remember this – it is only The Beginning!

The ending of Mark's gospel may have us confused. It ends very quickly. Mark 16:8, "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had

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Hello St. Mark Continued

seized them and they said nothing; nothing to anyone for they were afraid."

However, before this verse the Angel tells them in Mark 16:7, "But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you…" The beginning and the end of this gospel is for us to Go and Tell about this Jesus! Amen!

May we all be challenged by this gospel; beginning in Advent 1. The Beginning of the Good News – but it is only The Beginning.

In Christ,
Pastor Bill Long



A Meaningful Month

Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (The Prophetic Imagination). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can "block out the cries of the denied ones … so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God."

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus' coming? It's a good time to ponder what hurts God's heart — and how we can help.

If someone is lonely, perhaps we can invite them to Thanksgiving dinner. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.

November Scripture Readings

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints' Sunday: Revelation 7:9-17/Psalm 34:1-10, 22/1 John 3:1-3/ St. Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, November 8 – Pentecost 24: Amos 5:18-24/Psalm 70/1 Thessalonians 4:13-18/St. Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 15 – Pentecost 25: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18/Psalm 90:1-12/1 Thessalonians 5:1-11/ St. Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 22 – Christ the King: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24/Psalm 95:1-7/Ephesians 1:15-23/ St. Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, November 29 – Advent 1: Isaiah 64:1-9 /Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19/1 Corinthians 1:3-9/St. Mark 13:24-37



CHRIST COFFEE & COMMUNITY

Feel free to enjoy a delicious cup of Whiff Roasters coffee in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings after worship! You'll have a chance to grab some tasty treats, and mingle and get to know a great group of people that make up the heart of St. Paul's. You'll even have a chance to chat with Pastor Bill Long.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday in November.
A Communion Service, open to all, will also be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday, November 18 @ 1:30 pm.**
Also, if you worship from home and need communion elements, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447.



Fall Happenings @ St. Paul's

All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday, November 1, we will honor our Saints who have passed since last All Saints in worship. They are:
Eugene D. Schrawder
Nancy S. (Nan) Gibble
Phyllis M. Smeltz
Jeffrey Connor
David M. Gelatt
Menno R. Stoner
Gerald L. Schrawder
Mary Lou (Sue) Sahm
Jona L. Green
Thomas G. (Tom) Gates
Camilla Conrad
Barry Christ

A Work Day will be held on Saturday, November 7 from 9 am-Noon. There's more clean-out in the church to be done! Baked goods and coffee will be served as well, so feel free to stop by and help out!

Veteran's Dinner

Women's Fellowship is hosting a dinner to honor Veterans and their guest on Saturday, November 7 @ 6 pm. Please RSVP by Nov. 2 at 717.665.2447 if you plan to attend.

Communion @ Pleasant View

A Communion Worship Service will be held in Pleasant View's Hoffer Auditorium on Wednesday, November 18 @ 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 21 from 8:30-10 am in Fellowship Hall.

On the menu this month is Pumpkin Spice Breakfast Casserole and Cranberry Orange Baked Oatmal served with beverage. To help out at the breakfast, please contact Erica Hoffman at 717.203.1449 or by email at ejhoffman826@gmail.com.

Women's Fellowship

The next meetings of Women's Fellowship will be held on Thursday, November 19 @ 1:30 pm in St. Paul's 3 C's Café. See page 4 for more details.

Give Thanks!

A Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service will be held on Wednesday, November 25 @ 7 pm. Come, give thanks and praise to God for all of His wonderful blessings!

Check Out Our Website

Be sure to check out our website for up to date event information, or for information on cancellations or delays due to weather.

www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org









Holiday Happenings







Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary to glorify God beginning on Sunday, December 20. If you would like to place an order, please use the form in your bulletin or contact the church office at 717.665.2447.

The cost to sponsor a poinsettia is $10.50 each and may be placed in honor or in memory of a loved one. Plants have been preordered and will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Orders must be placed no later than Sunday, November 22, 2026.



Gift Card Fundraiser

Gift cards may be purchased for the Christmas season beginning Sunday, November 29 through Sunday, December 13. Please see Karen Brandt for order forms. Orders placed on a Sunday are typically available to pick-up the next Sunday. Proceeds benefit St. Paul's Mission Team.

Women's Fellowship

We are coming to our last meeting for the year 2026. **Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2026 @ 1:30 pm in the 3 C's Café.** Our plan is to get the final hats and scarves ready for the Breakfast with Santa and assemble gift bags etc. We will also allocate our gifts we give throughout the community and to UCC Homes.

It is an important meeting and we want you to be able to make these decisions – this will pretty much wrap up 2026.

Also, anyone who would like to decorate the Santuary windows for fall, please do so beginning November 1 and remove your items by November 29.

As we look ahead we don't usually meet in January-March because of the winter weather. We look forward to seeing you on November 19!

In His Love,
June Smith & Dottie Drumheller

Mission of the Month

The November Mission of the Month is St. Paul's FREE Community Breakfast.

The FREE Community Breakfast is held on the third Saturday of each month except in December when it is held on the first Saturday as the Breakfast with Santa. A warm, delicious meal is served to our neighbors and friends with fruit and beverage each month

Please use your November special envelope to support this very important ministry that helps to not only feed people, but allows new and heartwarming friendships to grow.



Food Pantry Update

Food assistance is available to anyone living in the Manheim Central School District through the Manheim Central Food Pantry. Contact is Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.664.1097.

Current needs are:Beef Stew, Canned Chili, Canned Potatoes, Canned Sliced Beets, Garden Produce, Chef Boyardee Pastas, Diapers, Sz. 5-6, Baby Wipes, Pull-ups and Plastic and Reusuable Grocery Bags

Be sure your donations are not expired, opened, or used. For more info, go to their website: https://manheimcentralfoodpantry.org/

Winter Women's Retreat



Camp Hebron in Halifax, PA is sponsoring a Winter Women's Retreat open to any woman who needs a weekend away to refresh and renew their faith. The retreat will be held on Friday, February 19 through Sunday, February 21, and will include many opportunities to learn, for prayer, to craft, play games, connect with other women, and can even include hiking, and horseback riding, weather permitting.

We have 5 women from St. Paul's who will be attending the retreat. If you'd like to attend, go to https://www.camphebron.org/events-1/womens-retreat-2027 and click on the register button. If you have questions, contact Pam Herman at 717.665.2447/stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net

Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, October 20, 2026. Highlights are shared before the minutes are approved by council at their next meeting, when corrections to details may occur.

Endowment Fund: The fund is down roughly $244,000 to date - $324,817 has been removed from the fund for renovations, which is a difference of $80,000.

Treasurer's Report:
Benevolence: $575 was received for the Shepherd's Fund (Mission of the Month) and $536.70 for OCWM in September.

Operating: $8,016 was received in September - the budget is $10,417/month.

Capital: $609 was received in September.

September's giving was $7,555.49 over last year's giving.

Pastor's Report:

- Dedication of the renovated spaces will happen on October 25.

Committee Reports:

- **Property Board**: future projects for 2027 were outlined
- **New Voices**: Discussion was held re: seed money for dinner church

Old Business: The Music Committee will meet to decide next steps.

New Business:

- The Budget Committee will consist of Gretchen Miller, Karen Brandt, and Pam Herman and will meet in early November.
- A change in the Sunday opening church procedure will go into effect immediately. The church will be opened at 8:30 am.
- Mark Lowe, custodian, will be recognized with a gift card for his above and beyond work in keeping the church clean during the renovation process.
- Upcoming Congregational meetings include Budget Approval Meeting on Sunday, December 13 and the 2027 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31.
- The next room to be cleaned out will be the Choir Room. Any personal items not removed in that room by December 31, will become property of the church and can be disposed of as seen fit.
- 2 new council members will be needed for 2027.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, November 17 @ 6 pm.

Upcoming Congregational Meetings



A Congregational Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13 following the 9:30 am worship service. On the agenda will be the Proposed 2027 Budget. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

On **Sunday, January 31, 2027, The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held following the 9:30 am worship service. On the agenda will be the Annual Report.

Annual Report information from all committees, teams, or chairpersons is due to the church office no later than Wednesday, January 6.



Connect With Us!

Please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net to update your address, phone number, email address or a change in your life situation.

If you or a member you know is hospitalized or in crisis, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447. Please leave a message and your phone number and someone will return you call shortly. Messages are checked daily.

Did you know that you have access to an Instant Church Directory app for your phone?

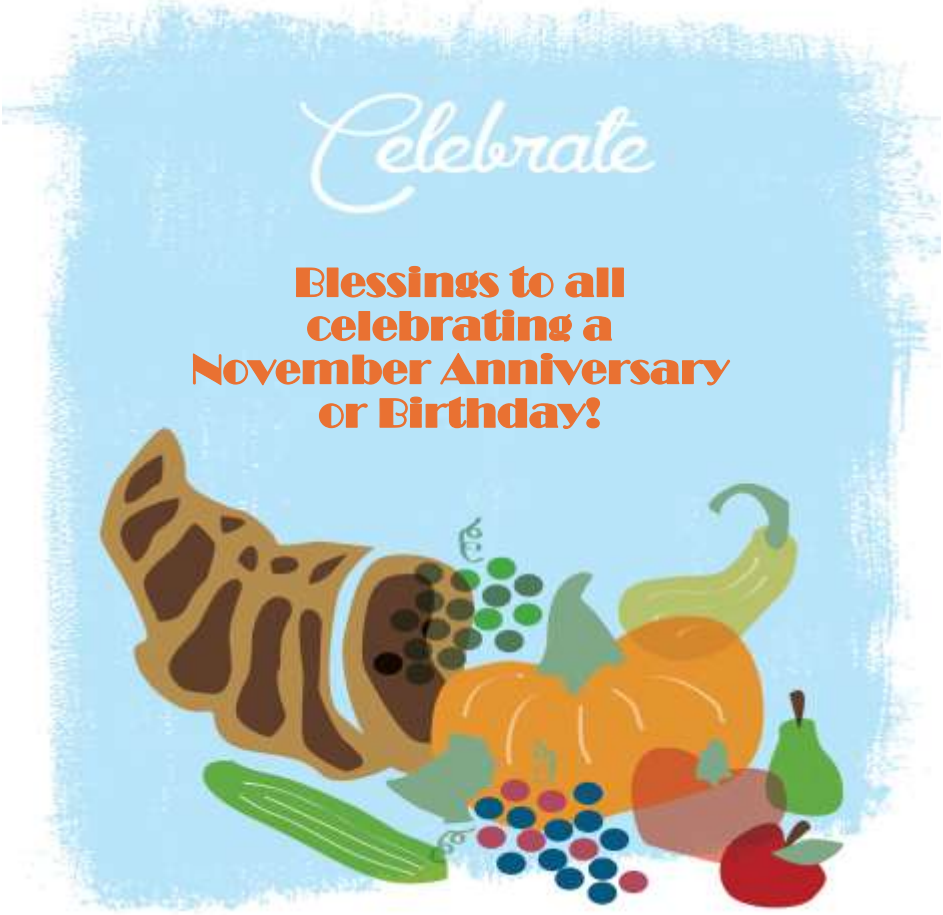
Download the app to your phone or device by going to the App Store or Google Play, and search for Instant Church Directory. Install the app on your device. You will then be prompted to enter your email address which must be the same email address the church has on file. And voila – you now have access to St. Paul's Pictorial Directory, where you can:

- Change your photo
- Change your address
- Message/Email a friend
- Look up an address or phone number.
- Even use the map feature to find the address!

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints' Sunday 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 	**2** 6:00pm Election Set-Up 6:00pm New Voices Vision Team Meeting 7:00pm Property Board	**3** Elections 	**4** 6:30pm Bible Study	**5** 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA@ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	**6**	**7** 9:00am Work Day 10:00am Simply Yoga 6:00pm Veteran's Dinner 
8 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	**9**	**10**	**11** 6:30pm Bible Study 	**12** 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA@ Zion Lutheran	**13**	**14** 10:00am Simply Yoga
15 Newsletter Deadline! 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	**16**	**17** 6:00pm Church Council	**18** 1:30pm Pleasant View Communion 6:30pm Bible Study	**19** 9:00am Simply Yoga 1:30pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm AA@ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	**20**	**21** 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast 10:00am Simply Yoga
22 Christ the King Sunday 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 	**23**	**24**	**25** 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service 	**26** Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed 8:00am Private Event 7:00pm AA@ Zion Lutheran	**27**	**28** 9:00am Tent. Work Day 10:00am Simply Yoga
29 Advent I 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 	**30**					

NOVEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries



Worship Attendance

Total attendance = those who worship in the Sanctuary, those in the nursery and those viewing the service online.

9/27 – 83
10/4 – 96
10/11 – 148
10/18 – 101
10/25 - 107

Christian Symbols

Scepter and crown

The scepter and crown are symbols of a king's authority. In Christian tradition, they represent Christ's triumphant rule over all. The final Sunday of the liturgical year — November 22 this year — is Christ the King Sunday, when we celebrate this very thing. Hebrews 1:8 (NIV), echoing the book of Psalms, reads: "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom."



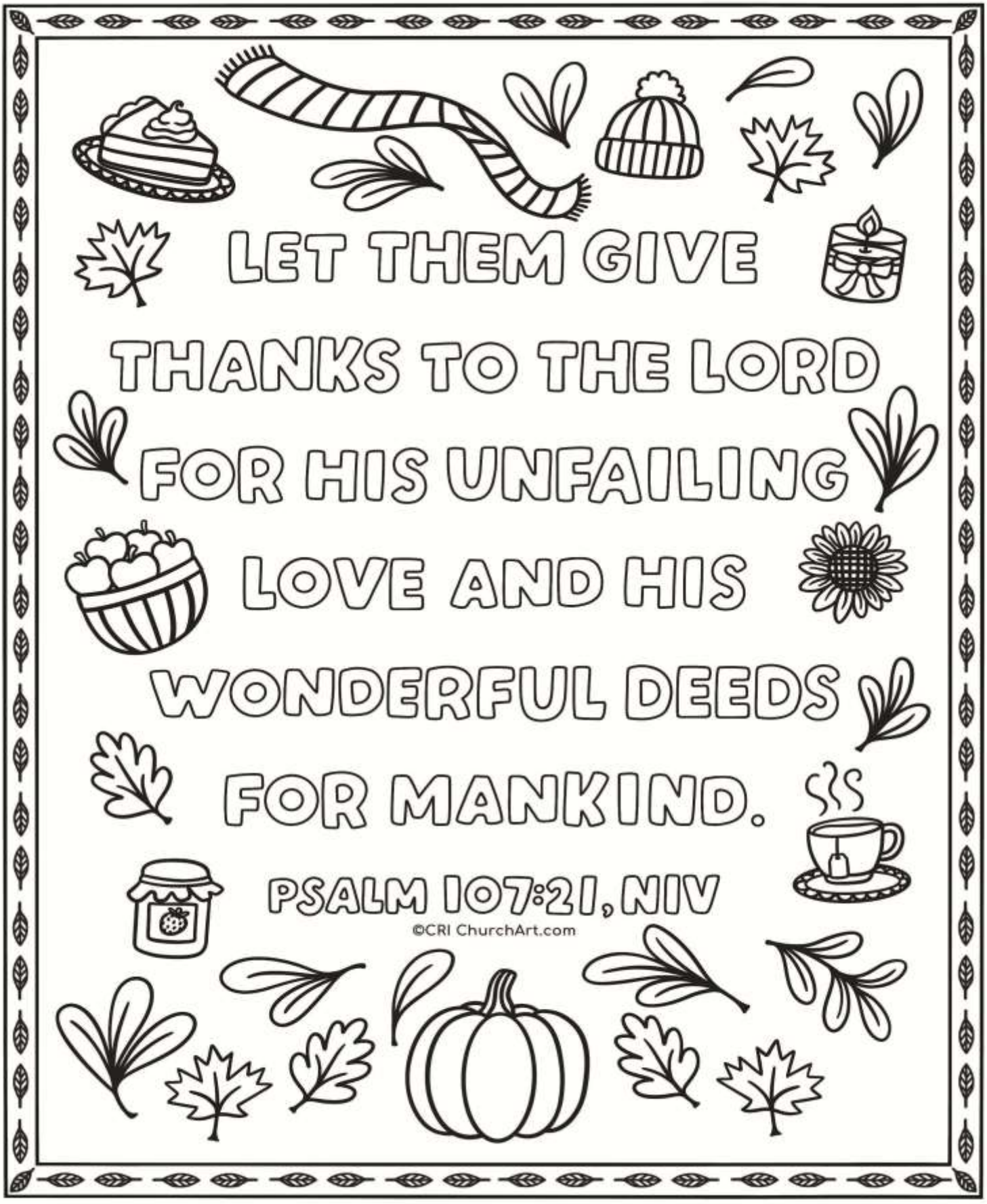
Prayer Requests

For prayer requests, please contact Joan Hess at 717.665.4705. Our homebound members will remain on the list permanently as a reminder to keep these individuals wrapped in prayer and to remember them with cards, phone calls, and visits.

Jean Gates Jay Hess Bev Hockenberry Jim & Erica Hoffman Tim Hoffman Bridget Irons
Ernest & Pat Kohler Jane Laube Maybelle Martin Jane Moyle Richard Moyle & Lynne Shoemaker Jessica Mullen
Glen & Delores Mumma Joanna Schreiber Betty Lou Stoner Scott Christ* Linda Coe* Wayne Conrad*
Kimberlyann Davis* Wyatt Dull* Dr. Eugene Engle* Terry Gyenes* Stephen H.* Blakely Kling*
Jace Laboranti* Rachel Martin* Shelly Mellinger* Karen Miller* Verdella Stauffer* Patrick White*
Teen Central & Bible2school kids/staff
In the Military: Jessie Dutt & Ben Ryan



Coloring Page



A Thank You Note



To St. Paul's Congregation,

It's great to know the world is full of such generous people like you. Thanks to each one of you for the gift card to Hilltop Acres. It is very much appreciated and my wife and I will make good use of it.

Thanks again to the congregation!

- Mark & Ruthanne Lowe



Communication Deadlines

St. Paul's Happenings is printed monthly except for the December/January and July/August combined issues.

The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication. **The December 2026/January 2027 issue deadline is Sunday, November 15, 2026.** Bulletin announcements are due to the church office by Wednesday mornings @ 8 am.



St. Paul's Staff & Leaders

Staff:

Pastor – The Rev. Bill Long

Church Administrator – Pam Herman

Organist – June Smith

Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman

Custodian – Mark Lowe

Kitchen Manager – Jerry Weller

Council:

Ministers – All Church Members

Karen Brandt – President

Lynn Brewer

Danette Fair

Ron Forry

Sue Frederick

Mike Givler - Secretary

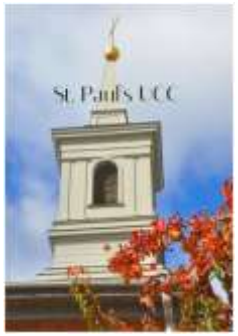
Gretchen Miller – Treasurer

Carolyn Peters – Vice President

J. D. Young

Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:
The Rev. Bill Long





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