

"From the Top"

A monthly publication of
Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA

Volume IV, Issue 11

November 2025

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV)

Turkey Dinner Drive

As we enter this season of gratitude, Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church is excited to launch a Thanksgiving Basket Ministry — an opportunity to share God's love and provision with families in need right here in our community. This year, we are partnering with the San Bernardino City Unified School District, who will help identify and distribute the baskets to families in need right here on our church campus. What a beautiful way to extend hospitality and blessing to our neighbors!

There are three simple ways you can participate:

1. Select an item (or items) from the donation board in the church Narthex. Purchase the listed item (s), and return them by the deadline.
2. Donate a complete Thanksgiving basket filled with all the fixings for a family meal. See page 8 for the list.
3. Give a monetary donation toward the cost of purchasing food and supplies — we'll do the shopping for you!

All donations are due before **Sunday, November 16th**. We will bless the baskets and donations during the **ONE SERVICE that Sunday at 10 AM**.

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Join Us for Sunday Worship! In person or YouTube live. Traditional Service at 8:30 AM, Contemporary Service at 10:30 AM. Watch anytime on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@SOSLutheran **Wednesday Bible Study** in person or online via Zoom at 10 AM Zoom Meeting ID: 854 2429 7034 Passcode: 487951

**Following Jesus
and led by the Holy Spirit,
we love and serve
God and our neighbors.**

Pastor: Rev. Steve Anderson (951) 217-1885

COUNCIL:

President: Rich Kamiyama 335-3636
Vice President: Laura Davis 338-2994
Council Secretary: Don Drost 864-4660
Treasurer: Dick Brossia (951) 833-4647
Financial Secretary: Viola Angebrandt 887-0799
Congregation Support: Gordon Gertner 709-3186
Education: Melissa Anderson 213-1059
Property: Kurt Anderson 553-3070
Worship & Music: Barb Frey 881-6069

STAFF:

Accompanist: Zabdiel Miranda
Church Secretary: Becky Tarts 496-9550
Custodian: Joe Balli 380-4018
Worship Leader: Heather Evans 725-8473

Special Thanks to Margie Arnett for keeping the Facebook page updated and relevant.

This newsletter is printed at no charge by LPI and supported by the generosity of the vendors listed. When you are in need of services, please remember to say 'thanks' to the businesses who help publish this newsletter.

Things you may need to know:

Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Submissions must be in writing—email preferred.

Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church
P: (909) 882-5013 office@soslutheran.org
Office Hours: M, W, Th 8 AM—4:30 PM Friday 8 AM—Noon

Attendance for September

	Trad	YT	Cont	YT*
9/7	19	1	32	6
9/14	22		32	1
9/21	23	2	35	2
9/28	unknown		27	

*YT YouTube number of devices online, not number of people.

**"From the Top"
Volume IV - Issue 11**

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Hello Church –

"Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home. All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin. God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied. Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home."



ELW Hymn #693 – Come Ye Thankful People, Come— Henry Alford

As we round the far corner and head into the final stretch of the very lengthy season Pentecost, a recurring theme is emerging in many of the scriptures we hear during Sunday worship... Gratitude. During worship on Sunday, October 12th, *"gratitude is an attitude"* was a recurring theme in my proclamation of God's Word (sermon.) The previous Sunday (October 5th) I shared a poem by Edgar Guest titled *I'd Rather See a Sermon than to Hear One Any Day* which also has a thread of gratitude woven into its words. And, of course, this article is also written for the November newsletter – a month when our nation celebrates Thanksgiving, which is also largely about gratitude.

Regardless of where, or how, your mind leads you to contemplate gratitude – a common thread can be found throughout... Choice. My dear friends, each of us has the freedom or autonomy from God to choose a mindset of gratitude – or something far more dark or sinister. You can choose to focus on the blessings which surround you, or lament that someone or something isn't *precisely* how you want it – and are therefore felling anything BUT gratitude.

A good example of this is the recent graffiti vandalism done to our beautiful campus – and the VERY hurtful, deeply personal, insults which were scrawled in numerous locations. To be completely honest, in the moments after being made aware, I was feeling anything BUT gratitude. I felt primarily anger and disappointment, especially at having to give up a rare day off to mitigate the damage. And, OH, how I wanted to get my hands upon the responsible party. While mitigating the damage, though, God spoke through one of the church's neighbors, Sal, who showed up unannounced but wanting to help with the mitigation. Sal said to me, *"Pastor Steve, it could've been SO much worse. It could've been broken windows, an arsonist, or an active shooter during worship. In the grand scheme of things, graffiti is pretty harmless, and I choose to be grateful it was nothing more."* WOW!!! Preach it, Sal, PREACH IT!!! In that moment, God transformed my heart – and while I'm still angry that someone made such a poor choice to desecrate our beautiful campus, I now primarily choose gratitude. Gratitude

that it wasn't worse, gratitude for the blessing of a non-member neighbor lending a hand, and gratitude that God spoke to me through that same neighbor. I choose gratitude... How about you?

iGg,



Pastor Steve

The Church Council of the
Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church
has called for the
Annual Budget and Election Meeting

Sunday, November 16
Immediately following the
ONE SERVICE at 10:00 AM
to be held in the Sanctuary

Election of Council & Committees
Presentation of the 2026 Budget

President's Note

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter November, we find ourselves surrounded by reminders of gratitude — the crisp air, the gathering of family and friends, and the spirit of Thanksgiving that fills our hearts. It's a season that calls us to pause and reflect on God's many blessings in our lives.

I am truly thankful for our church family — for the ways you serve, care, and share your faith. Whether it's through worship, outreach, music, prayer, or simple acts of kindness, you reflect Christ's love in this community. I am continually inspired by the generosity and faithfulness of this congregation.

As Thanksgiving gives way to Advent, we move from a season of gratitude into a season of anticipation — preparing our hearts once again for the coming of Christ. Advent reminds us that God's greatest gift is not found under a tree, but in a manger. Amid the busyness of the holiday season, may we take time to slow down, reflect, and prepare room in our hearts for Jesus, the true source of our hope, peace, joy, and love.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — **Psalms 107:1**

As we continue living out our mission to share God's love and serve others in His name, may this season renew our gratitude and strengthen our commitment to be the light of Christ in the world.

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving and a meaningful Advent season.

In Christ,

Rich Kamiyama

PROPERTY NEWS BY KURT ANDERSON

Landscaping Projects

By the time you read this Newsletter article the landscaping project at the corner of Sierra Way and Leroy Street will have been completed. Thank you to all who helped make this project a reality through your input and donations. Special thanks as well to High Desert Affordable Landscape who was our contractor for this project.

We're not done yet. During 2026 we are planning to complete landscaping within the new parking lot planters, regrade and reseed the triangle in the parking lot, and improve the landscaping along Leroy Street.

Drainage Project

Robert Eisenbeisz is preparing a new drainage plan based on the recently completed topographic survey and the original grading plan for the church. Robert, Pastor, Dick Brossia and I met on October 13 to review the work in progress. Robert will be contacting the City to determine what approvals and permits may be required. As previously mentioned, this will be an expensive project to implement, but it is a critical one to avoid the recurrence of the flooding that has damaged our property in the past. We are hopeful to have all plans completed and approvals in place by January so that we can go to bid and do the work in early Spring.

Sound and Video Systems

Rod Jones has continued to expend time and effort in trying to improve our systems. We need additional assistance during both services to run the video and sound systems. Please prayerfully consider making this a part of your ministry. Training is provided.

Capital Improvement Plan

We have begun discussion about preparing a multi-year capital project plan so that we can systematically address the needs of our aging campus. If you have a capital project in mind that you believe we need to address within the next five years, please e-mail or text me with a brief description at cdnorwalk@aol.com or 909-553-3070.

Lending a Helping Hand

If you would like to be involved in planning or working on any of these projects, please let me know.

Look for more updates in the December Newsletter.

Women of the Church News (WELCA) BY MELISSA ANDERSON

Quote that a friend shared, "Keep Fighting For The Good. Keep Showing Up. Keep Loving. Keep Giving Back. Keep Being Kind. Keep Being Brave. Keep Caring. Keep Trying New Things. Keep showing Grace. Keep On. This World Needs You To Believe In The Good.

MARY BIBLE STUDY GROUP – We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. in the library (November 13th). This month we conclude a Bible study on "Money, Holy Stewardship and Generosity," by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin. In Session three we will study "Generosity: There's a wideness in God's Mercy." We will now consider God's generosity and how we can reflect that generosity. ****SEE NOTE BELOW IN LIGHT BIBLE STUDY**** The study is from Gather Magazine and copies are duplicated for you, so you do not have to have the magazine to participate. If anyone comes across another study they would like to try, let me know as our study does not have to be from this one source. Come join us for Bible Study, fellowship, a cup of coffee and a snack.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD BIBLE STUDY GROUP – This group normally meets the 4th Thursday from 10:00 – 11:30 in the library (November 27th). Due to that date being Thanksgiving, we will combine lessons with the Mary Bible Study Group on November 13th. We will continue to study the Parable of The Bags of Gold from Matthew 25:14 – 30. In this parable the purpose is to consider the key role trust plays in our willingness to risk investing the resources God has given us for the furthering of his kingdom. The lesson is from the book Parables: The Greatest Story Ever Told by John White. Copies of the lesson are duplicated so you do not have to have the book to come and join us for Bible Study, fellowship, and a cup of coffee.

REBECCA QUILTING GROUP – This group meets the 1st & 3rd Thursday from 10 – 3 in the Parish Hall (November 6th & 20th). If you would like, bring something to share for lunch, though it is not required. This is an important fellowship where we make quilts for those in need. Even if you have never quilted before, I invite you to join us and learn something new as there are many different tasks that need to be done to complete each quilt. Come and stay for as long as your schedule allows.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP – We meet weekly from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. in the library and via Zoom. We are continuing our study on the revised common lectionary which involves reading the scripture and discussing important questions. Pastor Steve sends out information in an e-mail at the beginning of each study week. If you are not already on the list, let him know so you can be included. Also, copies of the lesson are available on the day of the study. I invite you to join us for the study led by Pastor Steve. The Meeting ID is 854-2429-7034 and the Passcode is 487951 for the study.

EVENTS / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES / INFORMATION

***San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus (formerly known as Central City Lutheran Mission or CCLM)** – Currently they are not accepting any donations due to their building process. I will let you know when donations will be accepted again.

The Pacifica Women of the ELCA Convention & Gathering** will be Friday, afternoon, November 14th – Saturday afternoon, November 15th at Clairmont Lutheran, 4271 Clairmont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92117. The theme is ***Here I Am, Send Me from Isaiah 6:8. There will be: Bible Study, guest speakers, workshops, a silent auction to raise funds for scholarships to our synodical and triennial conventions and to help support women studying to be ministers, and a worship service with offering. The offering will help support programs at the WELCA churchwide and Pacifica synod levels with their programs and help support the Community Christian Service Agency and the Lion's Club.

Our Love Gifts are for the community where the convention is held. This year we are supporting the Community Christian Service Agency. The CCSA is a San Diego emergency service for individuals and families in need with food, clothing, referrals, and counseling to assist in transition to self-reliance. We are collecting: 1) gift cards from Target and Wal Mart, 2) one-pound bags of rice and beans, and 3) canned fruit and vegetables of any size. The boxes will be in the narthex until Sunday, November 9th for any of these non-perishable items and for glasses and glass cases. Any donated gift cards please give to Viola or me. **The cost** of the convention is \$85.00 for the full week-end which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, all materials, and entertainment with dinner. The cost of attending only on Saturday is \$40.00. Information is in the bulletin and on the Wittenburg Wall. **YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP TO COME EVEN IF ONLY ON SATURDAY!** Please ask Viola or me with any questions you might have. Remember carpooling is possible and **scholarships** are available for the cost of convention.

Registration starts at 2 P.M. and includes hands-on activities, with dinner and entertainment at 5:00 P.M. on Friday. Saturday begins with breakfast at 8:00 A.M. and ends with silent auction winners and a worship service. Hotel information at a discounted rate is available upon request.

***Check Out These On-line Sites:** Pacifica Synod Notes and Newsletter and Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA Pacifica Partners are both available on Facebook. You may also email questions to the Pacifica WELCA President's e-mail at welca@verizon.net
Questions or Need More Information – Contact Melissa Anderson at 909-213-1059 or e-mail at custernut@aol.com

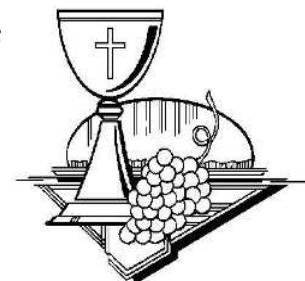
Thank Offering Sunday

Sunday, November 30
 Bring your checkbooks and cash to purchase quilts and donate \$ to WELCA.

ONE SERVICE at 10 AM.

Announcements from The Altar Guild BY GAYLENE SWANSON

The Autumn meeting of the Altar Guild will be held following the 10:30 worship service on November 23. We will meet in the Library to prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please let Gaylene know if you are not able to attend. Anyone who is curious or interested in learning more about the service opportunities associated with the Altar Guild is invited to attend also.



The items to provide a full Thanksgiving Dinner are listed below.

Thanksgiving Basket Ministry Items

You may donate to this ministry by purchasing an entire basket.

Please have all of these contents included in the basket:

1. 15-18 lb. frozen turkey or 8-10 lb. ham
2. 1 jar or packet of gravy
3. 1 5-lb bag of potatoes
4. 1 box cornbread mix
5. 1 box stuffing mix (not Stovetop/instant)
6. 1 brown or white onion
7. 1 bunch of fresh celery
8. 1 box of butter
9. 2 canned vegetables (any variety)
10. 1 can of cranberry sauce
11. 1 large can yams
12. 1 bag of mini marshmallows
13. 1 pie (any variety)

(Basket total cost is ~\$55)

More details about the distribution day will be shared soon. Thank you for being part of this ministry and helping us share God's abundant love — one basket, one meal, and one family at a time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/2 Su	All Saints Sunday	
	2:00 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time Ends
	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
11/3 M	11:30 a.m.	Child Safety Committee, L
11/4 Tu	Election Day	
	8:00 a.m.	Polls Open, PH
11/5 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
11/6 Th	10:00 a.m.	Rebecca Quilt Group, PH
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal, S
11/9 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	12:00 p.m.	Church Council, IMCR
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
11/11 Tu	Veterans Day - Campus Closed	
	4:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee, Z
11/12 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
11/13 Th	10:00 a.m.	Mary & Light Study Group, L
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal, S
11/16 Su	10:00 a.m.	ONE Worship Service, S/YT
	11:30 a.m.	Budget/Election Meeting, S
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S/PH

11/18 Tu		Mary's Table
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders, IMCR
11/19 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
11/20 Th	10:00 a.m.	Rebecca Quilt Group, PH
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal, S
11/23 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	11:30 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting, L
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
11/25 Tu		Mary's Table
11/26 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
11/27 Th	Thanksgiving Day - Campus Closed	
11/28 F		Campus Closed
11/30 Su	Thankoffering Sunday	
	10:00 a.m.	ONE Worship Service, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S

IMCR: Irma Miller Conference Room

L: Library

PH: Parish Hall

S: Sanctuary

YT: YouTube

Z: Zoom

Church Campus Closures in November: The Campus will be closed on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11 and Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27.

The office will be closed on Friday, November 28 as well. Please plan accordingly.

Happy Birthday to . . .

2 – Margie Arnett	20 – Linda Follendorf
3 – Julie Ball	21 – Barbara Eisenbeisz
4 – Pastor Steve Anderson	23 – Joyce Seeger
6 - Jim Petrucci	24 – Sue Clark
8 – Melba Saucier	25 – Brett Brossia
8 – Hayden Sinclair	25 – Chris Gallegos
11 – Orquid Flores	25 - Jeremiah Trimbath
11 – Joeleen Jimenez	
13– Amy Williams	
20 – Rebecca Hofflund	

**Happy Anniversary to . . .**

2 - Justin & Viviana Corey

11 – Tom and Debbie Casey

17 – Bill and Gaylene Swanson

Congregational Household Prayer list for November

Week 1: James & Judi Penman; Margie Penman Edwards; Jim Petrucci; Andrea Portsche; Melba Saucier; Donald & Ardella Schmidt

Week 2: Megan Schmitz; Paul & June Schmitz; Joyce Seeger; Matthew Seeger; Rachel Shay

Week 3: Geoge & Jasmine Simmons; Warlock & Diane Sinclair; Solar Family; David Sparks; Bill & Gaylene Swanson; Becky Tarts

Week 4: Richard Tomasso; John & Bertie Vanettes; Mary West; Amy Williams; Bev Wotnow; Herman Zietlow



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led by the Holy Spirit,
we love and serve God
and our neighbors.**

