

Give Thanks (With a Grateful Heart)

"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." –

Ephesians 1:15-16

It started with In-gathering, but I really jumped on the "giving thanks" train earlier this year. Let's be honest. I've been grateful and thankful since I started back in July! I hope to take every opportunity I can to express my thankfulness. It is truly a joy and honor to be your pastor!

We are moving into a season where the calls for you to give thanks will ramp up. Count your blessings! Say something you are grateful for every day! Participate in a "30 Days of Thankfulness" challenge! Often these reminders have an overtone of something you must do.

I would like to give you another way of looking at it. Yes, this is the season to give thanks but what is more surprising is when that gratitude is seen year-round. This is a great time to practice gratitude so that when the season has passed, we can continue to express it.

As we talk and think about what it means to love our neighbors, I believe giving thanks and showing gratitude are some powerful and surprising ways of showing love. Sincere expressions of thanksgiving, that take a moment to recognize the other person, can help others to feel seen, be known, and feel loved.

I'll admit...I am usually better at giving thanks than receiving thanks. So, one of the things that I am going to try this season is to hear and receive thanks when it is given. By expressing thanks continually, we show the world a different viewpoint. One that doesn't use gratitude as something to be used when extraordinary service is provided or as a throw-away thing to be said as a courtesy but rather as a natural, joyful expression of love for another person.

I am thankful for you! For your faith, your tenacity, your joy, and your love for one another. I pray that you have many things to be thankful for as we begin to wrap up the year with the holiday season. May you see God's abundant love all around you!

In Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

From your president...

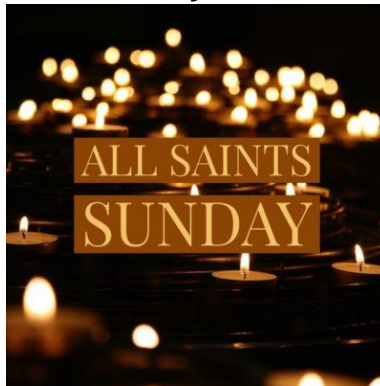
Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sat down to write a newsletter article for November, I remembered that November 5th is All Saints Sunday. My thoughts immediately went to Willie. Even though he died a year and a half ago, it seems like yesterday. I know that many of you have loved ones who have passed away, All Saints Sunday is a special time to remember them. The Hispanic culture celebrates Dia de los Muertos, in which they remember their loved ones. These two days give us comfort in knowing that our loved ones are in heaven and that some day we will see them again. I feel sadness in losing Willie, but what joy I feel knowing that he is in heaven.

Willie was just one of the saints that made this church so special. Sunday at the Ingathering, when Lauren said that Del Roy Haug had cooked the beans at the first Ingathering, it made me think of all my family and how special this church as been to us. This congregation is equally special to me and I thank God for each and every one of you. Thanks for letting me remanence with you.

God's Blessings,
Florine Haug

All Saints Sunday - November 5th



We will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on **November 5th** to recognize our members, family, and friends who passed away since the end of October, 2022. If you have someone you wish to honor during this service, we would like to incorporate a photo of that person in our service or by presenting a slide with their name on it. Please submit your photos and names to us by email at stjohnrobstown@gmail.com no later than November 1st. If you do not have access to email, please bring the items to the church office. As in the past, we will invite the deceased's family or friends to come forward to light a candle to remember them as their names are called during the service.

Reminder...

We're having a Pie Potluck after worship service on All Saints Sunday in the Narthex! Bake your favorite pie and bring it for all to enjoy!



Church office will be closed Wednesday, November 22nd - Friday, November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.

Is Anyone Interested in...

Starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry here at St. John? It would consist of people creating rectangular, knitted, or crocheted shawls. The purpose of the shawls would be to bring comfort to the recipients and an awareness of God's presence in their daily lives. People making the shawls will not know to whom they will be given, nor their circumstances, but every stitch will be combined with prayer for the wearer. The finished shawl will be blessed before being presented to the recipient as a reminder of God's constant love, His promises, His divine protection, and His healing power. If this sounds like something you would like to do, or learn to do, just let Peggy Butler know or contact her for more information at (361)537-8920. Please note, this in no way will complete with our wonderful Quilt Ministry. Both ministries can happen simultaneously and benefit more people in our community.

DOUBLES AND SINGLES
November 19th at 5:00pm
Bring a covered dish
If you have any questions,
you can contact Mona Fay
361-387-2383



St. John's Quilters
Every Wednesday at
9:00am



All are welcome!
We are looking forward to
having you join us!

St. John's Ladies Bible Study group
November 14th @ 12:00pm

Bring your sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. Desserts will be provided by Nola Gustafson and Janice Kimball. The study will be on the "Huldah", page 135 in Women of the Bible by Jean E. Syswerda, and led by Karen Boyd.

Please come for quality God/good time with your sisters in Christ ~ All are welcome!



Members

Isaiaz Alcala	Jana Dennis	Jennifer Klostermann	
Richard Alvord	Regina Emshoff	Chris Knetig	Donnie Schwirtlich
Kathy Baca	Cindy Fair	Barbara Lemon	Steve Tenpenny
Regina Baca	Margie Fair	Burrell Lemon	Bob Turk
Verne Benson	Mike Fair	Kay Mauer	Cyndi Tyler
Bette Bernsen	Curtis Fox Jr.	Preston McElroy	Andy Vasquez
Bob Bernsen	Ellen Fox	Robert Puente	Eddie Vasquez
William Bohach	Ken Heider	Loleta Riley	Shirley Walker
Darlette Brandon	Matthew Johnson	Buddy Schmidt	
Delma Cooper	Priscilla Johnson	Sandra Schmidt	
Joseph De Leo	Diane Keller	Doris Scholz	
Terra De Leo	Paula Kennedy	Roxey Scholz	

Family & Friends

Gloria Adami	Mark Geyen	Gail Riley	
M/M Rick Anderson	Raymond Grote	Rory Riley	
Brett Baker	Blanca Hale	Shane Riley	
M/M K. Bettis	Penny Hanson	Jerry Rychetsky	
Diane Beverly	Paula Heider	The family of Fred Schroeder	
Susan Bickam	Will Henderson	Linda Schuenemann	
E.L. Brashear	Jennifer Hornung	Barbara Steagall	
Autumn Brueck	Michael Hughes	Mike Stanfield	
Charles Burgess	Carol Lindquist	Matthew Stebbins	
Jay Cassidy	Carole Locker	Petra Tobon	
Bobby Chesnutt	David & Liz Lourash	The family of Rev. Don Vlasak	
Cookie Chesnutt	Rita Maxwell	Jennifer Vulpi	
Pat Scheible Cook	Priscilla Minter	Waylon Wallace	
Shawn Cook	Junior Nash	Ronald Wardak	
Karen Cookie	Sandra Neitch	Ruthie Weathersby	
Michael Cowan	Marcia Nelson	Zack Zeller	
Jan Crain	Tara Penny	Janie Zeller	
Joyce Davidson	Sharon Polansky		
Pat Denny	Lisa Reaneu		
Jeanne Ellis	Robert Redding		
Glenda Fleming	Austin Riley		

Prayers for the furthering of God's ministry at St. John Lutheran

Please pray for the family of Jane Reutter, our dear sister in Christ passed away on October 6, 2023.

November Birthdays



November 4	Sheldon DeLeo	November 16	Nola Gustafson
November 8	Don Kennedy	November 21	Regina Emshoff
November 15	Roxey Scholz	November 23	Monica Byars
November 15	Valerie Vasquez	November 26	Kirsten Schwirtlich

November Wedding Anniversaries

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Ramon Martinez & Valerie Vasquez	11/1/2015	8
Bridgette & Brian Vasquez	11/7/2015	8



November Ushers

Capt. Don Kennedy
Mike Fair
Curtis Fox, Sr.
Don Thigpen

December Ushers

Capt. Preston McElroy
George Johnson
Mando Vasquez
Mason Vasquez

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE IN OCTOBER:

1 st	58	15 th	56	29 th	54
8 th	64	22 th	80		

Yard Care – Help Needed

November 6-11	Howard Fels & Terry Signor
November 13-18	Don Kennedy
November 20-25	Don Thigpen
November 27-12/2	Mando Vasquez



Call Howard Fels at 361-877-9618 if you would like to help keep St. John well groomed.

The following is a synopsis of important discussions and actions taken during the Church Council meeting held on October 17, 2023:

- We are excited about the reemergence of Sunday school classes for children. We have one confirmation-aged member and will work with his family to make appropriate plans.
- The Board of Lay Ministry hopes to develop a list of possible volunteers who can help out with small tasks in the church office.
- We are excited about the election of new officers and board members. We hope to encourage others to join the very small Board of Stewardship.
- Our Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 7:00 p.m. Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, there will also be a 9:00 a.m. worship service that morning.
- Our council voted to allocate half of the Ingathering offering to go toward the food pantry and the other half toward the retirement of our roof loan debt.
- We okayed a decision of the parish council to proceed with creating a T-shirt advertising our Coastal Bend Parish.



Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

A big heartfelt THANK YOU for another amazing Ingathering! So thankful to continue this great tradition! A special THANK YOU to Don Kennedy (organizer) all the great chefs - Roecker family, Derek Schulze, Robert Knetig, and Pastor Jonathan. Also, thank you to everyone that brought a dessert. The food was extremely delicious and the fellowship was wonderful.

