

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 22, A+D 2026

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

508 N. Chicago Road • Thornton, IL 60476
Landline: 708-877-6564
Church Cell: 312-533-1896
Email: stpaulthornton@outlook.com
Website: www.splcms.org
www.facebook.com/splcms

DIVINE SERVICE
Setting 1 – Page 151
Lutheran Service Book

By the Cross of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, "he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats" (Matt. 25:32). "To those on his right," who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35–40). But "those on his left," who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart "into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep "as a shepherd seeks out his flock" (Ezek. 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, "the fat and the strong," but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds "the lean sheep" (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that "in Christ shall all be made alive" by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20–26).

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Exhortation *LSB 151*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins *LSB 151*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace *LSB 151*

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit *Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

P In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

C **the home of righteousness.**

P O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;

C **let me know how fleeting I am!**

P Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,

C **and my lifetime is as nothing before you.**

P And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

C **My hope is in you.**

P Deliver me from all my transgressions.

C **Do not make me the scorn of the fool!**

P Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!

C **For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.**
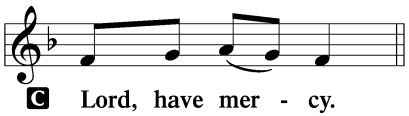
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
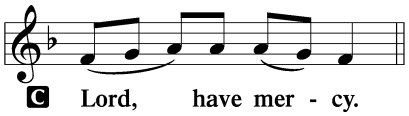
C **the home of righteousness.**

Kyrie *LSB 152*
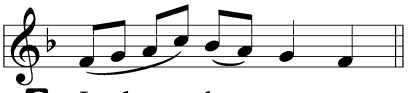
A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
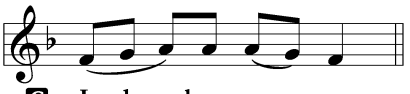


A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
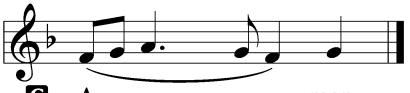


A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

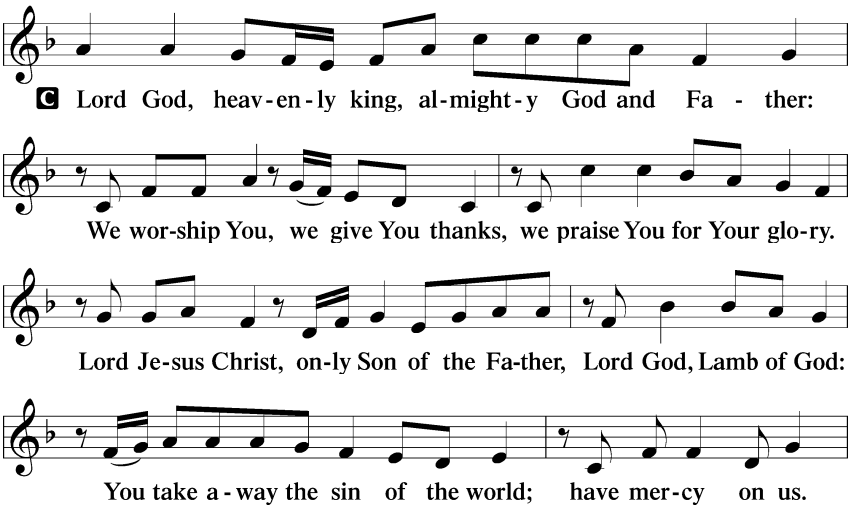


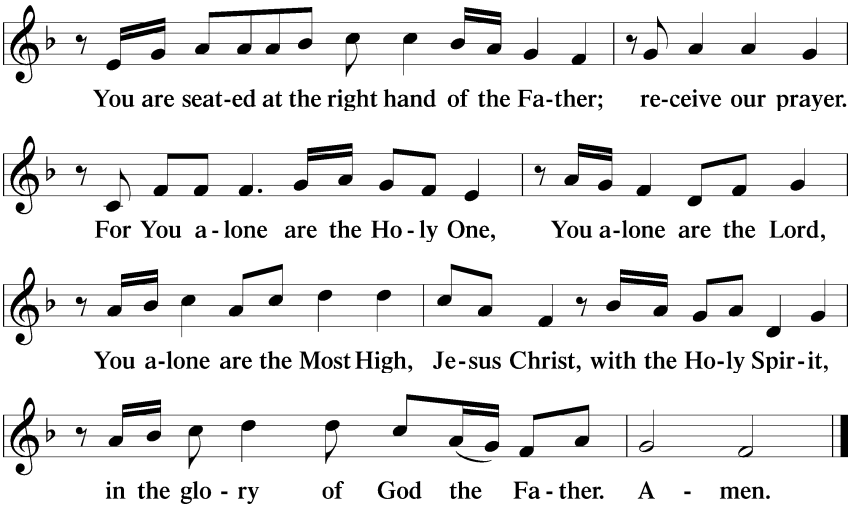
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 154*
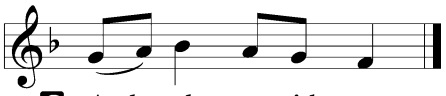
A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
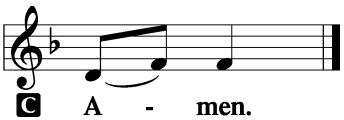




Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.
Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24*

A The Old Testament Reading for the Last Sunday Of The Church Year is from the thirty-fourth chapter of the prophecy of Ezekiel.

11"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my
sheep and will seek them out. 12As a shepherd seeks out his flock when
he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my
sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been
scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13And I will bring them
out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will
bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains
of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country.
14I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of
Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good
grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of
Israel. 15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will
make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. 16I will seek the lost, and I
will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed
them in justice. . . .
20"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will
judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21Because you push
with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till
you have scattered them abroad, 22I will rescue my flock; they shall no
longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23And I will
set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed
them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24And I, the LORD, will
be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am
the LORD; I have spoken."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

A The Second Reading is from the fifteenth chapter of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

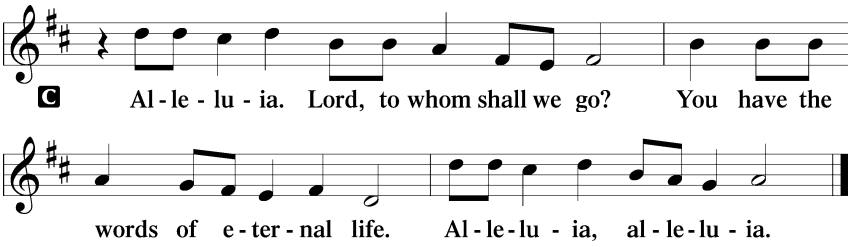
20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of
those who have fallen asleep. 21For as by a man came death, by a man

has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22]For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [23]But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. [24]Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25]For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26]The last enemy to be destroyed is death. [27]For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. [28]When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**
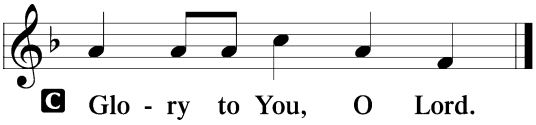
Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*



Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:31–46*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
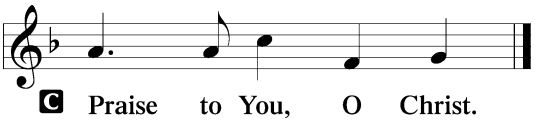


[31][Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32]Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33]And he

will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34]Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35]For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36]I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' [37]Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38]And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39]And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40]And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

[41]"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42]For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43]I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44]Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' [45]Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46]And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

532 The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

Sermon: A Mature Conversation about Sheep, Goats, and Confidence
Rev Jason Zirbel
Grace Lutheran Church
Greenwood, Arkansas

Stand

Apostles' Creed *159*

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
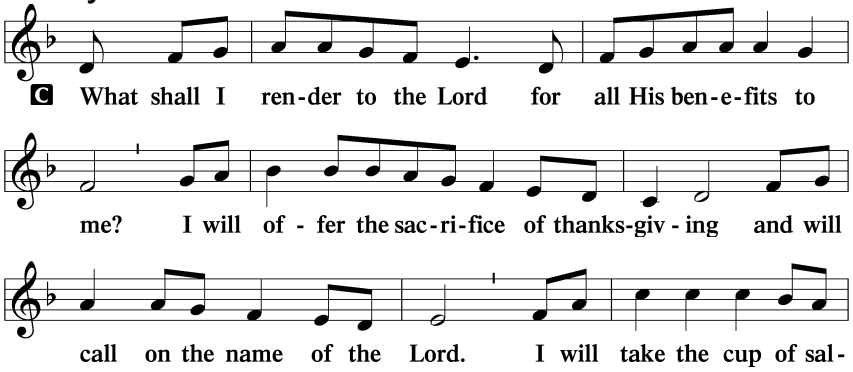
Sit
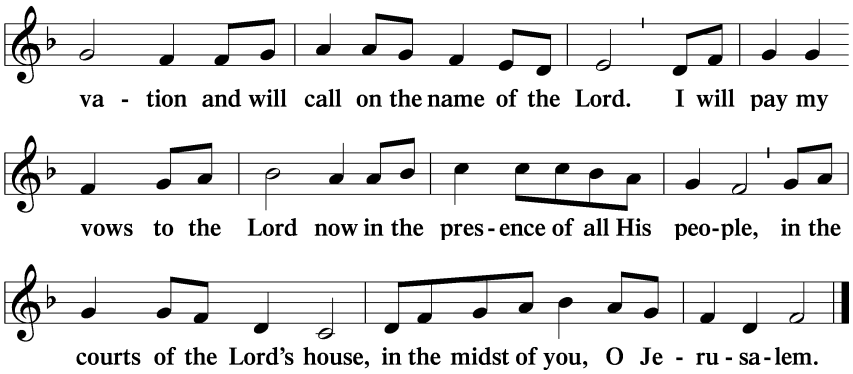
Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate.

Stand

Offertory *LSB 159*





Prayer of the Church *159*

P . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer *162*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
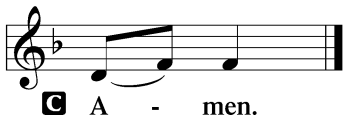
C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

Concluding Collect

P Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Benediction *LSB 166*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✣ give you peace.



680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Prayer of the church is adapted from "Let us Pray" a service of the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

DONATIONS

FOOD PANTRY

GENERAL FUND

WEB SITES

WWW.SPLCMS.ORG

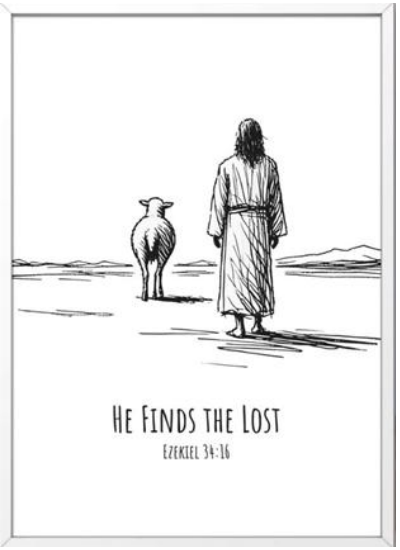
THE GLAD SPIRIT

The Glad Spirit
St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

November 22, 2026

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ST. PAUL'S FAMILY
Dominique Sella
Henry & Mary Sella
Louis Sella
Bill Sommer
Casey Stonerock



BIRTHDAYS
Deb Brandy, 11/24
Judy Diekelman, 11/24
Travis Middleton, 11/27
Hope Krieger, 11/28
Bert Wilmington, 11/28

BAPTISM
Andrew Bahm, 11/28

SPECIAL CONCERNS
Pray for Diane Andrasco, Dean Bloom, Sandy Bodza, Pastor Collins, Sophia Cromey, Carmen Dampier, Judy Diekleman, Shirley Emerick, Pastor Fluechtling, Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr., Marge Loitz, Beverly Oaks, Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich, Pastor Simon, Bill Sommer, Dolly Tagenhorst, Warren & Chris Van Mynen, Jean and Gene Wiltjer, Ray Zander.

Serving in the Military – Austin Brandy, Dakoda Gaut and Nathan Lopez.

Serving as First Responders – David Allen, Dave Bloom, Harrison & Arianna Cromey, Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson, Brian Orth, Noah Russell, Dana Tatgenhorst, Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.

NEWS UPDATE

We'd love to see you in worship. Our worship services are every Sunday at 9:30 AM. If you are unable to attend it can be viewed on Facebook live at www.facebook.com/splcms/videos. A previous recording is also available. Bulletins for the services are available for viewing or download on our website at www.splcms.org/worship.

In The Zoom Room

Let's Discuss



Monday – Friday Devotions
Portals of Prayer 8:00am to 8:15am
Lutheran Hour 8:00pm to 8:15pm
For the Link:
Call or Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896
Email: letsdiscuss@splcms.org

Saturday Bible Study
Resumes in January
8:00 am – 9:00am Women of the Bible
Call or Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896
Email: biblestudy@splcms.org

St. Paul Book Club

Will meet on Tuesday December 15th at 10:00 am, to review *The 13th Gift: A True Storyof a Christmas Miracle* by Joanne Huist Smith. We always welcome new members. We enjoy fellowship and lunch following the discussion.

Social Ministry

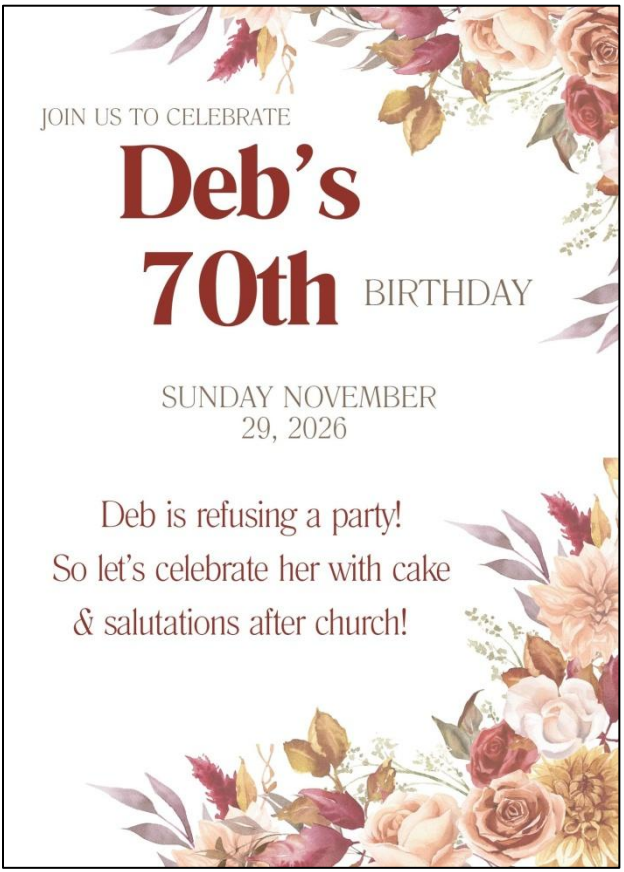
We continue to help those in need with gift cards for food during the year and during the holiday season. Your monetary donations are greatly appreciated and much needed. Please help us help others by contributing to Social Ministry marked on your Offering Envelopes.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner and time seems to speed up this time of year. At the present time we are currently assisting 5 families. We try to get the gifts cards out to the families a week or more before the holiday, so they have time to plan and shop.

In the Church is a box marked OPERATION KINDNESS! Food donations of canned goods, Boxed meals, Snacks, Kleenex, Soap, Toothpaste are also collected to be passed out to Stock the local Micro Pantries. TOGETHER WE CAN HELP LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED.

Christ for You the Week of November 22: We're continuing our study of Job on Sharper Iron. Join us as we pick up this week with chapter 31! On Thy Strong Word, we're continuing our series in 1 Chronicles!

Issues, Etc. The Week of November 22nd Where Christianity Meets Culture… Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio.





GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION



ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

November 15th Attendance 20, 20 Communed, 1 Online

Budgeted		Non-budgeted	
Envelopes	$660.00	Weekly Missions	$55.00
Basket	105.00	LCC	10.00
General Fund	250.00	Church Maint	10.00
Total	**1,015.00**	Social Ministry	370.00
Offering Needed	-1,342.00	**Total**	**$ 445.00**
Short	**($ 327.00)**		



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &…
	4:00 pm	Thanksgiving Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Thanksgiving Dinner
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &…

SERVANT SCHEDULE

	Sun, Nov 22, 9:30 AM	Sun, Nov 22, 4:00 PM
Pastor		Pastor Buss
Lay Reader	Jolene Bruning	Hope Krieger

DONATIONS

FOOD PANTRY

GENERAL FUND

WEB SITES

WWW.SPLCMS.ORG

THE GLAD SPIRIT