

# St. Michael's Trumpet

CELEBRATING 5 DECADES OF MINISTRY AND MISSION

MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH

## Pastor's Message

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." *Psalm 23:1*



Dear Friends –

Psalm 23 is possibly the most familiar as the psalm we read so somberly at funerals, and it holds an important place in our collective consciousness because it's comforting to us as it promises God's providence and presence. And because it promises God's protection, even in the face of death and enemies. For all these reasons it's a great psalm for a funeral.

And, as Bible scholar and preacher (and author of the current study book used in Sunday Forum, "Making Sense of the Christian Faith" – yes, that's a plug) David Lose points out to us, Psalm 23 is an even better psalm for every day of our lives before our funerals! Because, more than anything else, Psalm 23 promises that God will provide: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Lose continues:

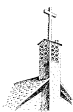
"Want. Think, for a moment, about how powerful 'wanting' is in our culture right now. Consumer spending now accounts for nearly 70% of our gross domestic product (GDP), which is significantly higher than most other industrialized nations (European countries average closer to 50%), as well as what it was during our parents' era (when it was closer to 60%). That's right: more than ever before, our economy is powered by our collective nights out to dinner, trips to the grocery store, and occasional shopping sprees. And to make that all work we are encouraged at every turn to want. To want more stuff, to want nicer stuff, to want lots of stuff."

"We live, that is, with an imagination dominated by a pervasive sense of scarcity, far more aware of what we don't have – and therefore should go out and buy – than what we do. No wonder so many people are unhappy. We are consumed by what we lack instead of grateful for our abundance. We are driven to get 'more' instead of content to celebrate 'enough.' And we measure ourselves against our deficits instead of glorying in our gifts and blessings." (*Emphasis mine*)

"And this is where Psalm 23 comes in... at every turn Psalm 23 promises us God's providence and provision of everything we need in this life."

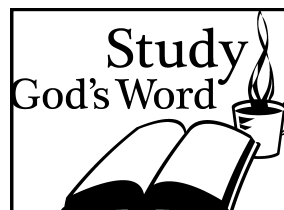
"So how it is that we've forgotten this? Part of it, of course, is the consumer-oriented culture in which we live. Bombarded by 24/7 advertising that seeks always to make us aware of what we don't have, it's easy to be seduced into thinking that happiness comes from getting everything you want, instead of recognizing and wanting all that you already have. But perhaps our congregations are partially to blame as well. Because we also find it easier to think in terms of deficits instead of blessings. (When did you spend the bulk of a church council meeting, for instance, celebrating all that you've accomplished, all that you've been given, and all the blessings with which you've been entrusted instead of worrying about the budget and the need to find more Sunday School teachers?) More than that, when we talk about stewardship or name the material and financial blessings that God has bestowed upon us, it's all too often connected with a stewardship sermon that concludes by asking our people for money."

"Now don't get me wrong. Of course we need to ask people for financial support (and demonstrate what we are doing with it), but when that is the primary message about stewardship, we only feed into the popular assumption that if we only had more we'd be happy. Yet Psalm 23 stands against all of that and invites another mindset altogether with its simple, singular, and salutary affirmation: 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.' That is, the Lord is my shepherd and provides all I need. Period. In this light, Psalm 23... simultaneously challenges the



**Sunday Evening  
JESUS ROCKS !  
Worship Celebration  
Liturgy using the music of the  
Beatles  
Fellowship Hall - Nov. 6  
Please Join Us!  
Pot Luck Supper at 6:00 p.m.  
Contemporary Worship Service at  
7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Form—9:30 a.m. in the Library**  
**Oct. 16 – December 11 - Deacon Lucille Teufel will be using the conversational style book, Making Sense of the Christian Faith, by David J. Lose. The book is available in the Church Library or Narthex. You can either buy the book for \$12., or borrow it for as long as you need and then return it for someone else to look at. You can come to any class without a book to see if you want to read it at home. Please join us!**



**Remember the Mitten Tree**  
 It will be in the Fellowship Hall after Dec. 7. Remember mittens, gloves, and scarves for children in the Syracuse area that need them.

**The Lutheran Home at Clinton Gift List**  
 will be posted for those who want to give gifts to the residents.

**YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES CALENDAR**

**Mark your calendar**

- Nov. 6 **No Faith in Action Morning Group**  
 Confirmation Ministry 4-6 PM  
 Community Meal 6 PM  
 Sunday Evening Celebration Worship 7 PM
- Nov. 13 High School Youth Group 12-2 PM
- Nov. 20 Faith in Action 9:15 AM  
 Spaghetti Dinner 12 PM  
 Congregational Meeting 1 PM  
 Confirmation Ministry 2 - 4 PM
- Nov. 27 Faith in Action 9:15 AM (Finishing Movie)
- Dec. 4 **No Faith in Action Morning Group**  
 Confirmation Ministry 4-6 PM  
 Community Meal 6 PM  
 Sunday Evening Celebration Worship 7 PM

**Learning at the Crossroads**

Sat., Nov. 22

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

\$20.

includes continental breakfast and lunch

Luther Memorial Church

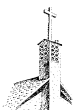
*Living Better, Living Stronger,  
Living Longer*

Led by Sandra Tars, Ph.D.,  
Geropsychologist

An interactive exploration of strategies to add mental and physical vitality to all our years.



"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks; your name is near. People tell of your wondrous deeds."  
 Psalm 75:1, NRSV



**St. Michael's  
Outreach  
on Tuesday  
at Michael's**

Advent begins on November 27 this year, so ... ta da! We begin our collection for our 2011 "Advent Blessings Family" – a local family in great need served by the Red Cross' disaster program. This anonymous gift allows us to live Christ's call in Matthew 6:3 to serve his children and "not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." We will give for the joy of serving our Lord, not for the plug of publicity. Our local Red Cross unit has their team on the task now, deciding which family will receive your Blessing. Just the day before the St. Michael's call came in, the staff and volunteers said, "The call should be coming in soon!" They don't even know the name of the church – it's just The Call!

Please know that by shining Christ's light through our Advent Blessing project each year, you pour joy upon the dedicated Red Cross workers as well as upon the members of the family.

**Advent Blessing Family Calendar:**

Nov. 20: Announcement of family and their needs

Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11

(Advent I, II and III): Collection of your gifts and cash

*Vanderkamp Center's  
Annual Food Festival  
& Silent Auction*

**November 5 - 6-8:30 p.m.  
Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church  
5299 Jamesville Rd., Dewitt, New York  
(Please use the north parking lot)**

***Bid on Items and Baskets: Hand Carved Angel, Hand made stool, Adirondack Chair, Deltasonic Car Washes, Items for Gift-giving, Think Pink, Framed & signed SU Basketball photos, Framed pictures, and much more!***

**Tickets \$15/person**

**Purchase from any Board or Committee member or by calling**

**Bev Carrigan 476-8800**

**Becki Harris 696-6566**

**Linda Graves 451-4944**

**Vanderkamp 675-3651**



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
BOOK SALE  
DECEMBER 4 & 11**

**SHOP FOR  
CHRISTMAS GIFTS!  
AND HELP BENEFIT  
OUR CHURCH  
LIBRARIES**

**Women of the ELCA (WELCA)  
PIE SALE**

WELCA will be selling home made apple pies. Your choices are:

- \* Regular double crust pie
- \* Crumb crust topping (like apple crisp)

They are \$10.00 apiece, and pick up day is Sunday, November 20, in the Fellowship Hall.

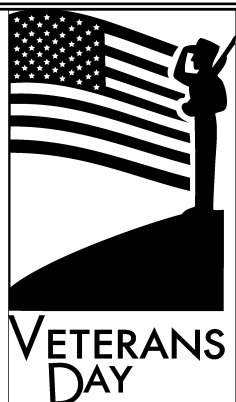
Proceeds from the sale will go to the Lutheran Campus Ministry and Women of the ELCA. Last day to order is Sunday, Nov. 13. Please sign up in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall.



Beginning Nov. 27

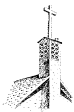


**On Saturday, Nov. 5, be sure to set your clocks back one hour!**



**REMEMBER OUR VETERANS ON  
NOVEMBER 11**





## Pastor's Message Continued

the cultural assumption that the path to happiness is paved with gift cards and invites a trust in God's providence that creates a sense of confidence and contentment that is as precious as it is rare."

This is a truly counter-cultural message and we are called to help one another not just to recognize but also to claim and share the abundance of our blessings. Here's a suggestion for you to try at home to get in touch with the abundance of your blessings and reflect on your personal stewardship of them – try this for yourself, do it as a family, and invite your 'tweens, teenagers and young adults who are so vulnerable to the advertising blitz of more, more, more of the newest, best, and most popular product, to take a breath and take a moment to:

Make a list of blessings and wants this week. Take just five minutes at some point during the coming week and write down in one column on a sheet of paper the ten things for which you are most grateful in your life. In the other column, write down the ten things you most want right now. Once the two columns are complete, consider this question: Which would have a greater impact, losing all the things for which you are grateful or gaining all the things you currently want? Most often, people realize that they already have so very much for which to be grateful and that adding the things they want rarely adds to that happiness. (A pastoral word of care: some folks, particularly if you are looking for work or grieving a major loss in your life may, in fact, feel that your very real wants overshadow your blessings, and it's important not to minimize those feelings. But if that's your situation, you even may be surprised at the blessings of support and friendship you have once you think about it). I invite you to record your thoughts and e-mail me at [revjfp@twcny.rr.com](mailto:revjfp@twcny.rr.com) with your insights and reflections on this exercise and I'll post these in the next newsletter.

The purpose of this exercise, David Lose concludes, is "to give us much needed practice in recognizing God's generosity, to nudge us from mindsets of nervous scarcity to confident abundance, and to invite us to rise above a culture shaped by its incessant wanting and transform us instead into communities marked by our trust in God's blessing."

"As you will quickly discover, Psalm 23, used this way, soon becomes a protest against all the voices that seek to rob us of our confidence in God's providence and identify us by what we're not. Further, it becomes a solid declaration that we are those people who have been richly blessed and so can lead lives of confidence, courage, and generosity, knowing that we have, indeed, been blessed to be a blessing."

*"Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life."*

[Evangelical Lutheran Worship #780, Refrain](#)

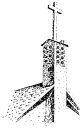
In Christ,

### **WEEKDAY CHAPEL SERVICES TO CONTINUE IN NOVEMBER**

I continue to invite you to join with those of us who are gathering in the Chapel on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. for Evening Prayer, and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. for Morning Prayer, half hour worship experiences including *Lectio Divina*\* to explore God's word speaking to us in our lives today. Come and worship – and bring a friend!

(\*Please see my Pastor's Message in last month's *Trumpet* for an explanation of *Lectio Divina* ("reading with God") approach to reading scripture. I can also e-mail you that information, and print copies are available on the table at the Chapel entrance).

*Pastor Janet*



**St. Michael's Lutheran Church**

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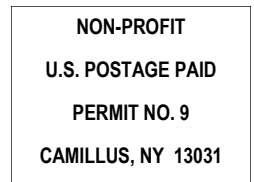


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NOVEMBER 2011



**Annual Congregational Meeting  
November 20  
Noon - Fellowship Hall**

**Spaghetti Luncheon  
served by the Youth Group**

**Pick-Up:  
Pie Sale  
New 2012 Offering Envelopes**

**ALL SAINTS' DAY**



Blessed are they who die in the Lord. On Sunday, Nov. 6, we will remember those of our Church Family who have passed into life triumphant since last All Saints' Day.