

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 24th
Sunday Live Worship, 10 am, Sanctuary
<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>
(Click the "LIVE" link in the tool bar to see recent worship services, as well)

Sunday, November 24th
All-Church Potluck, 11 am, Ida Payne
(See Details Below)

Sunday, November 24th
All-Church Conference, 12:30 pm, Youth Chapel
(See Details Below)

Thursday & Friday, 11/28-11/29
Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 19th
The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service, 6:30 pm
Outside, Weather Permitting

Sunday, December 22nd
Nativity Scene Show Case, 11 am - 2 pm, Overflow Room
(More Details to Come)

Tuesday, December 24th
Children's Christmas Pageant, 3 pm
(with Silent Night candles)

Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Worship, 5 pm
(with Communion & Silent Night candles)

Friday News 11/22

During the 1600s, the Thirty Years' War raged. The walled city of Ellenburg, Saxony, became a refuge for people fleeing the warring armies. By 1637, the city was severely overcrowded, and famine and plague set in. Of the four pastors in the city, two died, another fled, and only Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor, remained. During that year, he performed more than 4,000 funerals, up to 50 each day, including his own wife's. He was left to care for his children, mortgaging several years of his income to feed and clothe them, while continuing to care for the people of the city, feeding them as well.

Rinkart wrote many hymns; one of his best known, "Now Thank We All Our God," was written sometime in the year 1636 as a table prayer—a grace. He wrote the prayer to encourage his family to continue to thank and praise God, even while the war continued to ravage their lives and the lives of those around them.

Now.thank.we.all.our.God?with.heart.and.hands.and.voices?
Who.wondrous.things.hath.done?in.whom.this.world.rejoices·
Who.from.our.mothers".arms.has.blessed.us.on.our.way
With.countless.gifts.of.love?and.still.is.ours.today;

Many today are feeling besieged by troubling circumstances. Some are personal challenges, but we also find ourselves anxious over issues facing our community, our nation, and the world. We would do well to remember with Martin Rinkart that, in the most difficult of times, our best response is to thank and praise God for His love and care for us. He blesses us continually with His presence and His provision in our lives through His Son and His Holy Spirit.

This year, I faced the health challenge of breast cancer. I recall the triumph in the radiologist's voice when, in one of my follow-up appointments, he told me that he had been the one to find the lump. My immediate thought was that I wished it hadn't been there to find! But what a blessing it was that he had! I began looking for the ways God blessed me in the coming months—the compassion shown to me by all the medical staff I came into contact with, everyone from the doctors right down to the office receptionists; the wisdom and skill of my care team; the presence and help of my friends and family; the prayers and support of my church family; the support of my boss and co-workers; and even the blessing of health insurance. Most importantly, God was with me, His child, all the time.

This Thanksgiving season and always, let's rejoice in the goodness of God! Count your blessings, each and every one, and give praise to God!

»Shout.for.joy.to.the.Lord?all.the.earth;Worship.the.Lord.with.gladness·come.before.him.
with.joyful.songs;Know.that.the.Lord.is.God;It.is.he.who.made.us?and.we.are.his·we.are.
his.people?the.sheep.of.his.pasture;Enter.his.gates.with.thanksgiving.and.his.courts.with.
praise·give.thanks.to.him.and.praise.his.name;For.the.Lord.is.good.and.his.love.endures.
forever·his.faithfulness.continues.through.all.generations; _Psalm.766

God Bless,

Peggy Puryear

11/24
"Reign In Me"
Pastor Shirley DeLarme
Scriptures:
John 18:33-37
Revelation 1:4b-8

Reading of the Names

One of the agenda items for our All-Church Charge Conference is the membership report. Each year we note how many new members we celebrate and how many goodbyes we say, how many baptisms are done and how many deaths are mourned.

There are two final items in the membership report: a *First Reading* and a *Second Reading*. These are lists of inactive members who are being removed from the membership rolls in a two-year process. Inactive members have not attended worship or any other activity, nor have they contributed financially for a year or more; also, they are not among our homebound members for whom inactivity is not tracked.

It is difficult to get on one of these *Reading* lists. First, you have to be a member. Then you have to be inactive for more than a year! Then, someone from the church will attempt to contact the inactive person, using the most recent contact information we have, via phone, email, messenger, US mail, or grapevine. If

multiple attempts fail, then the inactive member is put on the *First Reading*.

The *First Reading* officially takes place at Charge Conference, a public reading that allows everyone to see who is missing. Maybe someone knows how to reach the inactive member! Maybe someone will restore contact with that inactive member. Maybe we can enjoy that person's participation at church again! If so, the member's name is removed from the list.

The remainder of the list is given an official *Second Reading* a year later, at the next Charge Conference. If nothing has been heard about these inactive members, then prayers of sorrow and a vote to remove those members from the rolls take place.

But that is not the end of the story. If any of those inactive members return in future years, they may request to be restored to the membership rolls, and it will happen with the magic called grace, no questions asked.

Below, please find the names for the *First Reading* and the *Second Reading*, 2024.

First Reading

Gary & Kelly Hopkins & family

James & Dianne Marquardt

Stephen & Karen Osborne

William Osborn, Jr.

Yesenia Rivas

Mitch & Susan Roach & family

Shane & Brenda Shiplet & family

Tom & DeAnn Yount

Second Reading

Steve & Nicole Austin

Brad Bement

Holly & Brett Bergum

Koren Burling
Claudia Glover
Brady & Kaitlin Hagen
Ed & Jennifer Mitchell
Dick & Amanda Nelson
Tim & Brooke Nickolaus
Clint & Jennifer Whitney & family
Kelsey York

Help Zebedee Decorate His Tree in The Library on Sunday, 11/24

Stop by to help Zebedee decorate his tree! Whether during youth Sunday School or at a standalone table at the potluck, you can enjoy decorating one of sixty donkey ornaments. Afterward, Zebedee will place each ornament on his tree for everyone to admire. Like the ornaments, each book tells its own story and contributes to our joyful celebration, symbolizing the growth and beauty of our Christmas tree. The tree will remain in the Ida Payne room throughout the season for all to enjoy.

All-Church Conference

The All-Church Conference will occur on **Sunday, November 24th at Noon** immediately following the All-Church Potluck starting at 11 am. The Leadership Council will be providing turkey, ham, utensils, coffee, water, and lemonade for the potluck. If your last name begins with A-F, bring a dessert; G-M Side dish; and N-Z salad. All church members may vote at the conference; if you are not a member and wish to become one, or if you want to verify your membership, please contact the church office at 509-582-2163.

Pep's Bean Soup for Sale

Pep's Bean Soup is for sale in the church office for \$9.00/bag.

World Relief Collection

Items for **World Relief** will be collected **during the month of November** in the Welcome Area. There will be signage and laundry baskets for placing your items. Let's remember these refugees who are arriving from countries with political unrest, natural disasters, or persecution. World Relief's numbers are up, with 150 refugees

expected to arrive between August and December. November is a month when we give thanks for our many blessings; let us help welcome these newest arrivals to our country.

Needed: Winter clothing (new or gently used)- winter coats of all sizes, scarfs, and hats.

Kitchen items (new) -glasses, bowls, cookware, eating utensils, and other utensils.

Bedding (new) – full or twin-sized sheets, comforters, and towels.

Church Office Staff Meetings

The Church Office meets for a Staff Meeting the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 10 am - Noon. The office is closed 10 am - 1:00 pm on those days.