

November

Ushers:

East door: Ken Uhrick West door: Terra Roop

Liturgist:

Nov. 2: Jeanne Reidenbach

Nov. 9: Ken Uhrick

Nov. 16: Randi Stevens

Nov. 23: Barb Engle (Thanksgiving Comm.)

Nov. 30: Jan Miller

Greeters:

East-West: Faith Walchle NE Front: Sandy Uhrick

Fellowship Hour:

Maggie Bolinger Tonja Anweiler Jeanne Reidenbach Randi Stevens

Count Offering:

Terra Roop

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for submitting items for the December newsletter is Nov. 20. December is a busy month, so please submit your activities as soon as possible. Please email to office@zionuccdecatur.org. or call the church office at 724-3502.

Operation Help/Harvest Food Table:

Our Operation Help products for November will be items for the Harvest Food Table. Please place your donations of nonperishable items or canned goods in the bins in the dining room and West vestibule or bring them to the sanctuary on Sunday, November 16th. Please let Janet Smith know if you know of someone in our church family or the community in need of help this holiday season. Extra food items are donated to Operation Help to serve the wider community.

Lunch Bunch:

The Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch ar Everett's Family Restaurant in Willshire on Wednesday, November 19th at 11:30 a.m. Please see Karen Heller or Russ Augsburger if you plan to attend. Everyone is invited for a time of good food and fellowship.

Men's Fellowship Thanksgiving Dinner:

We hope you will join the Men's Fellowship on Sunday, November 16th for their Thanksgiving Carry-in dinner. Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, dinner rolls, and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Dinner begins at 5 p.m.

College Boxes:

Our College Boxes will be sent the second Sunday of November. Your donations of snacks and school supplies may be placed in the bin in the dining room before Sunday School. Monetary donations to cover postage are also welcome. We currently have 3 students receiving boxes.

Fall Congregational Meeting:

Our Fall Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 16th following worship. There will be elections for the 2026 Official Board, presentation of the 2026 budget for consideration and other items of interest to the congregation.

Candidates for Elder are Jan Miller and Carl Stevens. Candidate for Trustee is Tim Bolinger. Candidates for Association and Conference delegates are needed, and any member of the church is eligible to serve. There are no Deacons to be voted on this year. A copy of the budget is included in the newsletter.



Bible Study:

Our Bible Study continues on Thursday mornings. We are currently studying the letters from John. Everyone is invited to join in the lounge at 10:30 a.m. There will be no Bible Study on November 20th as Rev. Kahler will be out of town.

Advent Decorating:

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th. We will be decorating the church on Sunday afternoon, November 23rd. Please meet at 2p.m. The Men's Fellowship will also meet at that time to set up the Nativity. A new stable has been purchased and donated for use on the front lawn. It takes the efforts of many people and any help is much appreciated.

Thanksgiving Communion:

Thanksgiving Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, November 23rd. We hope you will join us as we give thanks for our many blessings.



Angel Tree:

Names of children to adopt for United Way's Angel Tree will be available in early November. We have committed to helping 30 children have a happier Christmas. Please watch the bulletin or website for more information.

Condolences:

We offer our condolences to the families of Tim Walchle and Mary Pat Heller, who passed away recently. Tim passed away on Sunday, October 5th. Private services were conducted by Rev. Kahler on October 12th. Mary Pat passed away on October 10th. No services were held for her.



Time Change:

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2nd. We **Fall Back, so set your clocks back 1 hour!**

All Saints' Day/Memorial Sunday:

We will observe All Saints' Day and Memorial Sunday on November 2nd. During this service, we will remember and celebrate those in our church family who have passed away this year. Memorial Sunday has previously been observed the last Sunday of the year. We will be incorporating elements of a service called Totenfest into the service.

Totenfest is a German word that means "Feast of the Dead" or "Festival for the Dead." It was established in 1816 by Prussian Emperor Fredrick William III as a day to remember that nation's soldiers who had died in the recently concluded Prussian War. It became an important observance in the Evangelical Church in Prussia (established by the same emperor in 1817) as a day to remember not only the war dead, but also church members who had died in the previous year. The term fell into disuse in America as churches of German heritage started substituting English words for German ones. In fact, by the 1916 Evangelical Book of Worship published by the German Evangelical Synod of North America, the term Memorial Sunday had been substituted for Totenfest. This memorial has roots in All Saints and in All Souls days from the medieval church. All Saints Day was begun by Pope Boniface IV in 609 to remember the virgin Mary and all the martyrs. It was officially designated on the church calendar in 837 to be celebrated on November 1. By the thirteenth century it was a fixture on the church's calendar.

Parents' Morning Out:

Our Trunk or Treat event last year saw many neighborhood families come into our parking lot. We would like to expand on that outreach by offering an event to bring those same families back to the church. This year we are inviting the Trunk-or-Treat families back for a Parents Morning Out on November 29th from 9:00-1:00 for children ages 3-11. With all of the holiday events and shopping, we can provide four hours of childcare to help parents get those things done while we watch their children. This gives us the opportunity to get to know some of the families that are a part of our neighborhood, and them the opportunity to get to know us. We plan to have themed activities, games, crafts, and snacks for the children to enjoy during their time with us. Volunteers are needed to assist with the program for the day. Contact Pastor Allen & Shannon to volunteer!

Thank you:

"I want to thank you all for the cards, calls, and prayers during the difficult days following the loss of my son. I appreciate your thoughtfulness very much."

Faith Walchle.



Happy Thanksgiving