

November 2011

Sharon Monthly News

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them, bear much fruit.
John 15:5

Highlights...

Turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 5th

Sunday, November 6th –we will celebrate All Saints Day. We will also welcome new members.

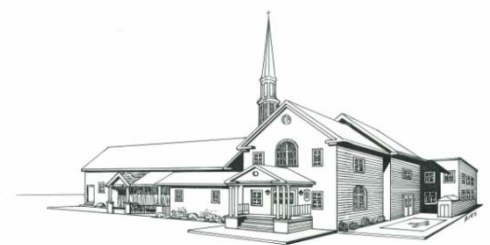
Sunday, November 13th –we will hold a congregational meeting after 10:30 worship.

Thanksgiving Eve worship –will be hosted by St. Paul's UCC at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27

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Sharon Lutheran church
120 S. Market St.
Selinsgrove, PA 17870
Facebook Sharon Lutheran Church
www.sharonlc.org



Pastor's Note

"Jesus said to Thomas, I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

John 14:6a

At a moment when the disciples were again confused by Jesus' discourse and had no idea what lie ahead, a path was made for them; Jesus, himself, goes before them, showing them the way, even becoming the way for them. Jesus as a path, offering the clarity of truth and the infusion of life now and forever is an image worthy of contemplation.

On the first Thursday of each month, I take a day for spiritual reflection, for time in prayer for all of you, prayers for my own renewal, and for discernment. I intentionally set aside time to step outside the everyday tasks and to glance at things from a broader view. The discipline of listening and reflection is essential for maintaining perspective and for paying attention to God's guiding Spirit. One of the disciplines I utilize for reflection is a labyrinth walk. As I contemplate scripture, or reflect on a story of scripture, or just let silence speak—a path, a way, lies in front of me and leads me on.

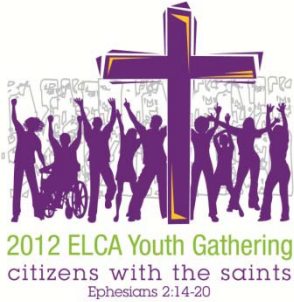
This past month I was thinking about several scriptures and stories while I was walking and meditating. One scripture was Jesus' description of himself as the way, the truth and the life. As I walked along, surrounded by trees and yet concentrating on staying in the labyrinth design, that sense of path—a way—that God has made and continues to make for us and for me, came clearly to mind. Beyond simply my way or your way, but the way made through Christ focused me on our moving forward together on a path laid out for us. We walk together in the trust of following where God leads; paying attention to the way that God creates in front of us. It is a way marked by truth and infused with life.

The center of this labyrinth is marked by a large rock pillar—the rock of Christ that grounds us, our foundation, a rock that builds us into this path as living stones, incorporated into what God is already doing. As I stood in front of that rock and turned to walk out of the labyrinth, I thought of this moment at the end of another church year marked by a time for thanks-giving for what has been and what will be. A time marked by the anticipation and expectation of what lies before us—a path, a way where God promises to break in again and again and draw us to Godself. Jesus, himself, goes before us, showing us the way, even becoming the way for us.

Peace,

Pastor Doll

Youth News



We are officially registered for the Gathering and will be continuing to plan for our time away in New Orleans. The youth will be meeting monthly to study, prepare our covenant, and continue to build our group relationships. We are pleased to have Pastor Amanda Range from Salem Lutheran Parish joining us as our female adult mentor. We will also be joined by Amanda Bogetti, one of the youth from Salem Lutheran Church. Our next meeting together will be Sunday, November 13th at 7 p.m. at Sharon.

**NOVEMBER 11TH
SERVICE PROJECT
for AGES 12 through ADULT
TRIP TO LWR (Lutheran World Relief)**

We've been there before and we're going again!

Youth and adults will be traveling to Westminster, MD to volunteer at the SERRV warehouse to price and pack up items made by people in Third World countries. Selinsgrove students have that day off from school. SERRV is part of the Fair Trade Federation and “for 60 years has worked to eradicate poverty through their direct connections with low-income artisans and farmers. They market their crafts and foods, find joint solutions to their challenges, and help them grow and embrace the future.” To find out more about the SERRV organization and products, go to www.serrv.org. Not only do we have fun packing & pricing, but we enjoy shopping in the discount room too! Contact Robin Kunkel at 374-8444 or robinkunkel@gmail.com.



**INTERSTATE BATTERY SALE
YOUTH FUNDRAISER
October 30-Nov 17**

“Enjoy the benefits of bulk shopping with Interstate! Stock up for emergencies or power the gadgets you use every day. For the budget-minded customer, try out Interstate’s power by the pack—a great solution for a good cause.” The youth going to New Orleans are fundraising with the Interstate Battery company to share savings with you for those needed batteries for the holidays. Items for sale will be AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt, a flashlight and a battery organizer and tester. Sales begin October 30 and run through November 14. Payment is due upon ordering. Seek out one of our youth attending the Youth Gathering to place your order. They are: Tori Doll, Jamie Fedder, Caleb Miller, Alex Pennay, Casey Reiland, Austin Stroup and Maddie Weirick.

For more details, check out the fliers on the Youth Bulletin Board or contact Robin Kunkel at 374 8444 or robinkunkel@gmail.com.



Worship News



All Saints'

On November 6 we will remember all who died in the faith over the course of this past year. We plan on lighting a candle in remembrance of each individual during the prayers of the church.

Since last All Saints' Sunday, the following members of Sharon have entered the Church Triumphant:

Madalene F. Grugan

Mary M Bickhart

Jean Prince

Donald Savidge

Elva Hoch

David Dagle III

Connie Harnum

Lee Elmer Meiser

Edna Ritter

Welcome New Members Nov. 6th

Rev. Mary Peterhaensel, Miron Shirk (joined in September), Mark and Melanie Heuer, Rita Regel, and Susie Weller. Additional individuals and families are considering becoming part of the community of faith at Sharon. Updates will appear in next month's newsletter.

Thanksgiving Worship

This year we are pleased to join together at St. Paul's UCC for an evening of Thanksgiving worship that will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Sharon Lutheran participates in the Selinsgrove Ministerium. The ministerium is the gathering of congregations in Selinsgrove, across denominations, for shared ministry and service and community connection.



Advent Vespers, December 4th at 4 p.m.

We are excited to offer an Advent Vespers worship on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 4th at 4:00 p.m. Local congregations have been invited to participate by sending choirs, musicians, and readers to take part in a celebration of lessons and carols of Advent. Worship at Sharon will be followed by a time of fellowship and light snacks.

Special Note:

We are thankful to all who serve as worship volunteers and hope that there may be more of you who would like to take part in serving in worship as ushers, acolytes, readers, cantors, communion assistants and greeters. In the coming month new schedules will be put together and will be sent to all who are currently serving in any capacity. A letter will accompany the schedule to provide details about the process for updating and changing serving dates. The Worship and Music Team will be providing a training event for all volunteers twice during the year.

Thanks and Celebrations

Dear members of Sharon:

Thank you so much for all the cards and well-wishes, the visits, and the gifts we've received upon the birth of my daughter, Leia. I am blessed to work in such a place that I can also call home and I look forward to returning to work in early November.

Most Sincerely,
Carrie Dunn

We would just like to thank everyone for their kindness during our recent flooding of Sept. 8th-11th. Would especially like to thank Pastor Doll and Paul Grimes for allowing for us to park our RV along side of the church and plug in. Also thanks to Carrie for her kindness and wit. Thanks to Robin and Keith for inviting us for a nice warm meal and showers. You do not know how much that was appreciated. Thanks to the rest of the congregation for their prayers and concerns during this time of flooding. Thanks for the donations of cleaning supplies as well. They were gratefully appreciated and put to good use. What ones we did not use, we spread to others who needed them as well. We are in our home but the cleanup will continue. Just waiting for the insurance to decide if they will cover anything. Praying so. The house design did what it was supposed to do. With the elevation and the flow through construction, the damage and loss was lower than in previous floods. We are also thankful we were able to pretty much move back into the home without too much disruption. I wish the same could be said for many of our neighbors. Many are not able to live in their homes and some were severely damaged and people are not coming back. Praying that they are able to find peace in their new locations. While the water is no longer in the homes, the scars are still there. At least no lives were lost in our area.

So again thanks to all who helped us and others. God Bless you all.
Phil, Wendy and Kayla Martin

Special Thanks to Kay Hooper, Maureen Ries, Sherry Barben, Susan Hegberg, and the members of the SU choir for all the additional special music during the month of October as we previewed pianos. It was wonderful to have you all share your musical gifts to build up the body of Christ.



Who's got a birthday?

Nickler, Drew	11/1
Soper, Violet	11/1
Weirick, Don	11/1
Nolder, Leonard	11/2
Young, Marsha	11/4
Savidge, Derek	11/6
Fedder, Jamie	11/7
Martin, Nancy	11/7
Bertinet, Pat	11/8
Herbert, Jo Ann	11/8

Mullen, Erin	11/11
Herbert, James	11/14
Bowen, Arthur	11/15
Hummel, Sue	11/19
Fedder, Michael	11/20
Shoemaker, Miley	11/20
Wagner, Ann	11/20
Piermattei, Fred	11/22
Callender, Shirley	11/24
Inch, Helen	11/25
Aucker, Molly	11/26
Mangels, Jake	11/26
Frymoyer, Nancy	11/29
Partica, Mary	11/29
Pennay, J	11/30
Romig, Marcia	11/30
Stetler, John	11/30

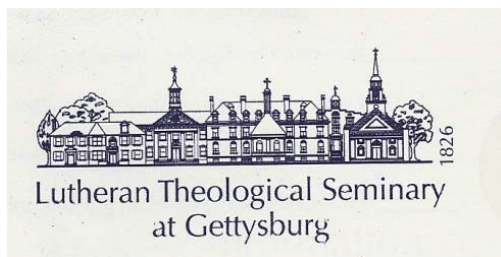
Prayers

Sharon Members: Ellie Dinsmore, Paul Grimes, Suah Harris, Jetta Harrison, Martha Hummel, Jean Leach, Lois Mason, Shaun Osgood, Helen Ritter, Robert Stetler, Clara Wagner, Evelyn Wagner, Erma Weirick, Ernie Renninger, Kay Spigelmyer, Buzz Savidge, the Kemberling family,

Our Condolences to the family of Elva Hoch

Deployed in Military Service: Patricia Culbertson, Brian Glass, Josh George, Kimber Creamer, Ryan Kuster, Matthew Sharp, David Spurling and Steven Stahl

Friends of Sharon: Barbara Broadt, Sally Cherrington Beggs, Maryellen Brocavich, Alene Bush, Holly Daubenspeck, Michael Doom, Mary Elizabeth Gabala, Mary Haddon, Sara Holmes, Richard Pennay, Judy Johnson, Stephanie Inch, Brian Klinepeter, Dale Morse, Cathy Moyers, Susan Mull, Marie Paul, Ronald Saylor, John R. Shadle, Jr., Delores Sharp, John Stauffer, William Teisher, Joan Thomas, Shirley Thomas, Linda Kinney, Michael Snyder, Tammy Gephart, Helen Nolder, Judy Hile, Miriam Logan, Michelle Tilton



The Ridge from Afar--November 2011

“Discernment” is what we call it—those of us who feel God’s call. That’s all of us, of course, you know. It includes you, friends of Sharon, too, with your many talents and personal ministries. It includes my friends and fellow students of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and me. This

gradual revealing of God’s plan for us takes on a multifaceted life of its own sometimes. We’re called at all ages and stages. And there are occasional bumps in the road. We know, in truth, the disclosure will, most likely, never stop as long as we live and breathe. It’s a wrestling match sometimes. It’s a still small voice at others. But we know. God calls. October was rich in opportunities for growth at the Seminary. The 41st Annual Luther Colloquy of October 26 is just one example. My Luther and Reformations’ Professor the Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna is the Director of this year’s event featuring the theme Fifty Years after the Berlin Wall. The Institute for Luther Studies always promises enrichment for the Seminary community as well as for guests on campus. Check out the website once in a while: <http://www.ltsg.edu/LTSG-News> . And while you’re there don’t miss the news about the upcoming textile artists’ exhibit on Dressing Sacred Space running from October 10 to December 2 in the Library Pioneer room. Having just spent last Saturday with some of my Seminary Candidate friends, the Bishop and his Assistant and our supportive Relators at the Upper Susquehanna Candidates’ Retreat, I feel renewed in prayerful progress, slow as it is for me now on this journey through Candidacy. Pray for us all, my Gettysburg Candidate friends and for me as well as for young Daniel from our Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. And while we’re all in the praying mode, let’s not forget to pray regularly for all evolving Pastors and Diaconal Ministers as well as those already out there in the field, which, I suspect can be both a blessedly assuring and sometimes rugged and lonely journey.

In Christ. **Carol Black**

Discipleship



**MINISTRIES for
CHILDREN, YOUTH & TEENS**
Contact = Robin Kunkel 374 8444
or robinkunkel@gmail.com

ADVENT VILLAGE FAIR December 11 from 6-8pm

The Advent Village Fair is a time for all generations to share activities, goodies and friendship in the atmosphere of the Advent season.

The Christian Education Team is seeking families, groups or Sharon Teams to sponsor a booth at the Fair. There are 11 spaces and we currently have 7 available. To sponsor a booth, we ask that the activity relate to the Advent theme. This is a time to celebrate with family and friends, so we ask that no items are sold or donations taken during the Fair.

Our Sharon children, youth and teens are encouraged to share their talents during the Talent Show portion of the evening. Suggested talents could be playing an instrument, singing, drama, poetry or dance. Contact Robin before December 1 to reserve a booth or volunteer to perform at the Talent Show.

Sunday School Opportunities for ALL ages! Sunday-9:00 to 10:15a.m.

- Sunday school for 3 year olds through sixth grade
- Confirmation Class 7-9th grades
- Senior High Group 9-12th grades
- Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Lindquist in Reverend Theodore Lindquist classroom aka the Seekers Room
- Adult Discussion Group in What's Brewin' Room

Adult Bible Study: Our group is growing!! You are welcome to meet in the "What's Brewin' room on Tuesdays @ 10:30a.m. Pastor Doll facilitates a conversation on the upcoming Sunday's readings. There is always coffee on and sometimes there are goodies too! ☺



CONFIRMATION CORNER:

9th Grade Mentor Session = Dec. 4

Service Project-Advent Village Fair=Dec. 11

Communion Session held Oct 16

What a joy to meet with some of our 3rd and 5th graders to talk about the sacrament of Holy Communion. I really enjoyed sharing the symbolic foods from the Seder Meal—from the Passover Feast. We learned how God's people remember God's story of redemption and salvation told through the symbolic foods. We learned how Jesus shared new words about the bread and wine proclaiming them his body and blood given for you. What an amazing announcement of God's forgiveness, redemption, and salvation for us. Of course, we all remember that there are 3 things that make something a sacrament— Common earthly element, Command of Christ, Gift of God's Grace. Baptism and Communion are the two sacraments. Welcome to the feast—Sean Dagle, Courtney Kemberling, and Elise Keeney!

FRONT PORCHIN'—it's your story and God's story shared with one another.

Facilitator: Jake Jacobson.

Host: Christ Lutheran, Milton.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 19th 8:30 am-3 pm.
Refreshments provided. Bring a bag lunch.

Register by Nov. 14 karljohn@uss-elca.org
or 570-524-9778

Council Updates

Sharon Congregation Council at its October 17, 2011 meeting reports the following actions:

- a. The Fall Congregation meeting will be held on November 13, 2011 following the 10:30 a.m. service.
- b. Approved extension of Dawn Doll as Director of the Chancel and Children's Choirs for another year.
- c. At the request of the Personnel Team, approval was given to have the Property Team explore options regarding increasing security for the building and report back to Council.
- d. The Audit Team presented their written report of the 2010 audit. Council accepted the report with its recommendations and expressed its thanks to the Audit Team for their work completed on September 25, 2011.
- e. Council reviewed the need for nominees for four three-year term Council members and one single year term for Council. Suggestions for nominee names are welcome from Sharon members. Election of Council members will occur on November 13, 2011.
- f. Following Council review of a proposed 2012 budget from the Finance Team, approval was given to have Council recommend this \$345,940 budget to the Congregation for its vote on November 13, 2011.

Congregational Meeting



1. Notice of Congregation Meeting: As required by Sharon's Constitution, Council by this newsletter is notifying members of a Congregation meeting following the 10:30 am service on November 13th. Voting members of the congregation will be asked to take action on the following items:

- + Vote for members to Congregation Council;
- + Vote to adopt a budget for the 2012 calendar year.
- + Vote to accept the updates to the Constitution
- + Vote to make recommended changes to sub-accounts of the Sharon Trust Fund

Evergreen Cemetery Association Meeting
Thursday, November 3
7:00 pm at Sharon

NOTES	SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH SUMMARY BUDGET PLAN FOR 2012
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BUDGET 2011	Council Recommended BUDGET 2012
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INCOME

A	REGULAR ENVELOPES (Total)	\$ 307,000	\$ 314,600
	SPECIAL GIFTS (Total)	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
B	TRUST ACCOUNT TRANSFERS (Total)	\$ 38,702	\$ 27,240
Grand Total - Income		\$ 349,702	\$ 345,840

EXPENSE

C	GIFTS TO OTHERS	\$ 22,900	\$ 25,000
D	PASTOR	\$ 106,251	\$ 97,667
E	PARISH MINISTRY ASSOCIATE	\$ 44,944	\$ 46,652
E	OTHER STAFF	\$ 79,637	\$ 81,329
	OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 12,550	\$ 12,072
F	WITNESS	\$ 5,050	\$ 7,650
G	PROPERTY	\$ 59,100	\$ 54,900
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400
	SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800
H	WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$ 8,070	\$ 9,370
Grand Total - Expense		\$ 349,702	\$ 345,840

Detailed Budget Plan for 2012 available in the church office
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Notes Explanations

- A - Anticipates giving increase of 2.5%
- B - Anticipates 40% decrease in Sharon Trust transfers
- C - Restores 10% of unrestricted Current and Benevolence to Synod
- D - 2% salary increase but decrease in health insurance cost reduces Pastor expense
- E - 2% salary increase
- F - Increase proposed for new pictorial directory in 2012
- G - Utility cost management reduces projected expense for 2012
- H - Includes bulletin expense moved from Office to Worship & Music

Social Ministry

Haven Ministry Update

Thanks to Brandy Savidge, Paul and Delphine Grimes, Mary Hummel, Mary Pendley, Karen Bowen, and Alma Pauling for preparing and sharing food with the Sheltering ministry at Haven Ministry near Sunbury over these past few months. Each month on the first Friday, food is prepared and taken over to Haven for all who are being housed that day. If you would like to offer food, you can note that on the bulletin board near the choir room or contact one of the people listed above for more information. November's sign-up is as follows: Chicken noodle soup (Brandy), Chips, egg salad, and rolls (Mary Hummel), Apple dessert (Alma Pauling) A vegetable is still needed for Nov. 4th.

Regional Flood Relief Updates

Sawdust Ministry at St.Luke's Lutheran Church in Bloomsburg. Mike McCay, who heads up the Sawdust Ministry, is willing to coordinate work for teams who still wish to help. Teams and individuals can work on Saturdays. Contact him at mccay4@gmail.com or 570-317-5418.

St. John's, Espy (*Pastor Gordon Smith*) stands in one of the hardest hit neighborhoods from the recent flooding. The church has been providing three meals a day for flood victims for over a month. They need help with providing this service. If your church might be able to provide some kitchen help, such as cooking or bringing and serving a meal, please call Merrill Smith at (570) 205-9284.



Blanket Sunday review

Stitchers, a long-standing working committee and volunteer ministry at Sharon, has been involved in two Lutheran World Relief projects for many years. The committee members create and sew hand-crafted quilts and school kits.

This year the committee made 114 quilts and 50 school kits which were displayed in the nave on Blanket Sunday, October 2 for both services. Also displayed in the narthex was the presentation board showing workings of the committee; designed and assembled for 2009 Mission Sunday.

Stitchers greeted at both services on Blanket Sunday. Pastor Doll led the congregation in blessing the quilts and school kits and recognized the Stitchers who were in attendance.

Monday, October 3, the ladies packed 96 quilts and 50 school kits to send to World Relief. Twelve quilts were taken to Haven Ministry, our supported local mission.

For your information, since the writer has been keeping records (for about 14 years), Stitchers have made 877 quilts and 520 school kits.

The stitchers are grateful for all the donations of fabric and money from individuals, the money allocated by members of Thrivent, and shelves donated by an individual in the community. With these funds the Stitchers were able to purchase rolls of fill, fabric items for the school kits and sewing supplies. Any monetary or fabric donations are greatly appreciated. New members are always welcome! Stitchers meet most every Monday from 1 to 3 pm in a room on the second floor of Sharon.

Stitchers are: Barbara Blakley, Mary Bottinger, Frances Bowersox, Carol Bradford, Romane Dagle, Dawn Doll, Marcella Engle, Patty Gaugler, Carol Harrison, Sue Hummel, Kay Keller, Vickie King, Lois Mason, Nancy Murray, Mary Partica, Doris Pence, Pat Pinkowski, Darlene Ritter, Marjoire Savidge, Carole Snyder, Kay Spigelmyer, Bernice Troutman, Clara Wagner, and Evelyn Wagner.

Submitted by: Nancy Murray, Recorder for Stitchers

Thank-offering Sunday

On Sunday, November 13th we will highlight the work and ministry of women across the ELCA. Anyone wishing to make a special Thank-offering will have the opportunity to do so by using the special Thank-offering envelope. In the gathering foyer, there will be displays that will highlight ongoing and potential women's ministries at Sharon.