

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bethany Ministry

NOVEMBER 2026 MESSENGER



What belongs to Caesar, and what belongs to God?

Let us think about that for a moment.

If God is the Creator of heaven and earth, if everything we have ultimately comes from God, then what does not belong to God?

The sky and the earth. The air we breathe and the time we are given. Our bodies, our health, our families, our friends, our abilities, and even the possessions we work so hard to acquire.

All these things exist within God's creation and depend on God's grace.

Even our very lives are gifts.

So, if everything belongs to God, what does that mean for the way we live?

What does it mean for the way we use our money, spend our time, care for our neighbors, participate in our communities, and worship together?

And perhaps the most uncomfortable question of all is this: **Do we truly live as though we trust God, or do we sometimes trust something else more?**

Look at our money. In the United States, our bills carry the familiar words, "In God We Trust."

But sometimes I wonder whether we actually live by those words—or whether money itself quietly becomes our god.

We may say, "In God we trust," while worrying constantly about what we own, what we might lose, what we need to acquire, and whether we have enough.

Sometimes our security depends more on our bank accounts than on God's promises. Sometimes our schedules, our careers, our comfort, our political loyalties, or our desire for control become more important than our relationship with God and our neighbors.

And sometimes, perhaps most dangerously, we begin to believe that we ourselves are in control of everything.

We start thinking, "This is mine. I earned it. I deserve it. I can decide what to do with it. I can decide who belongs and who does not."

Sound familiar?

I think about the sense of entitlement that can grow within us when we forget that our lives are gifts rather than possessions we have earned independently of God and others.

Yet the Gospel invites us to look beyond ourselves. Before we ask what we have a right to possess, perhaps we should ask how God is calling us to live with what we have received.

Because if everything belongs to God, then we are not the ultimate owners of creation. We are its stewards.

And stewardship is about much more than money.

Of course, stewardship includes our financial offerings. When we place our offering in the plate, what is our attitude?

Do we think, "I am giving God some of my money because the church needs it"?

Or can we say, "God has blessed me in so many ways, and I am returning a portion of what I have received so that God's love can reach others"?

There is a difference between giving reluctantly out of obligation and giving gratefully in response to grace.

But let us be clear: we do not give in order to earn God's love. We do not give because God will love us more if we contribute more. In Lutheran theology, God's grace comes to us as a gift, freely given in Jesus Christ.

We do not give in order to receive God's grace. We give because God's grace has already been given to us.

That is the heart of Christian stewardship.

The same thing applies to worship. When Sunday morning arrives, do we see gathering for worship as an opportunity to receive God's gifts, hear the promise of the Gospel, share in the sacraments, and praise the One who sustains us?

Or do we sometimes see worship as one more obligation competing with everything else we would rather do?

Of course, there are times when we are tired, overwhelmed, ill, or carrying burdens that make worship difficult. God does not measure our faithfulness by pretending that we never struggle.

But the question remains: What place does God have in our lives? Are we making room to receive God's Word and gather with our siblings in Christ?

And what about the ministries of our congregation?

When the church invites us to serve our neighbors, support people in need, care for the vulnerable, or work for the well-being of our community, how do we respond?

Do we see these opportunities as burdens that interrupt our lives? Or do we see them as invitations to participate in God's work in the world?

Again, we are not saved by our service. We are saved by God's grace. But that grace changes us. It frees us from living only for ourselves and opens our hearts to the needs of others.

This is what it means to live as a steward of God's creation.

Our stewardship includes our money, but it also includes our time, our talents, our relationships, our citizenship, our work, and the ways we treat the people around us.

It includes being a caring family member, a faithful friend, a responsible citizen, and a good neighbor.

It includes standing alongside people who are struggling, seeking justice for those who are mistreated, and caring for the earth and its creatures.

God has entrusted this world to our care, not so that we may exploit it without concern, but so that life may flourish.

And this stewardship also includes caring for ourselves.

Are we caring for our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being? Are we allowing ourselves to rest, to receive help, and to remember that we, too, are beloved creations of God?

We cannot always control our circumstances. We cannot prevent every illness, solve every problem, or make every relationship whole. Faith does not promise us a life without hardship.

But we can remember that our lives are held in God's hands, even when we feel uncertain or weak.

In Christ,

Pr. Hayley Bang



Veterans Day Service

Will be observed on **Sunday, November 8th, immediately after** the worship service outside in the **Memorial Brick Garden in the cemetery at St.** Paul.

Christmas Bazaar Planning Committee Meeting

Will be held on ***Thursday, November 5th and again on Thursday, November 19th, at 6PM*** *at the Panera Restaurant in Garden City, Cranston.*



The Worship and Music Committee will **meet** on **Monday, November 16th, 2026** at 7:00PM in the Large Conference Room on 2nd Floor of Fellowship Hall.



Social Ministry/Outreach Committee

Will meet on **Sunday, November 15th, 2026, at 11:00AM** in the Large Conference Room on the 2nd Floor of Fellowship Hall.

The **deadline** for articles for the **December** Messenger will be on **Friday, November 20th, 2026.**





LINUS QUILT GROUP

Will meet on **Wednesday, November 11th, 2026** in the Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation Class Schedule 26/27 Classes at 6:30-8:15PM

10/20 First Class/fellowship night Tuesday
10/27 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
Sunday 11/1 Fellowship at St. Paul's 11am to 12:30pm
Tuesday 11/3 Planning- adults only Tuesday
11/10 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran Tuesday
11/17 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
11/24/26 All Students are expected to attend Thanksgiving Worship at Pilgrim
Sunday 11/29 Fellowship at St. Paul's 11am to 12:30pm
12/2 Planning- Adults only
Tuesday 12/8 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
Tuesday 12/15 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
Sunday 12/20 Fellowship at St Paul's *Christmas Carolling* 11am to 12:30pm
12/29 No class- Vacation 1/5/27
Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
1/12/27 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
Sunday 1/17/27 Fellowship at St. Paul's 11am to 12:30pm
Tuesday 1/19 Planning- Adults only
Tuesday 1/26 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
Tuesday 2/2 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran **2/9**
Pancake Dinner/Shrove Tuesday 2/16
Vacation- No class
Tuesday 2/23 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
Tuesday 3/2 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
Sunday 3/7 Fellowship at St. Paul's 11am to 12:30pm
3/9 Planning-Adults only
3/23 Holy week- No confirmation class. Students are expected to attend 2 services during this week
3/30 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
4/6 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran
Sunday 4/11 Fellowship at St. Paul's 11am to 12:30pm
4/13 Planning- Adults only
4/20 Vacation no class
4/27 Class at Pilgrim Lutheran 5/4
5/4 End of the year Celebration



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jaycob Martinez	*on the*	*3rd*
Joelly Martinez	*on the*	*3rd*
Kathryn Romelczyk	*on the*	*4th*
Ian Paiva	*on the*	*5th*
Betty Waddington	*on the*	*5th*
Stephanie Zagorski	*on the*	*5th*
Lynn Anderson	*on the*	*7th*
Nancy Lembke	*on the*	*8th*
Christine Johnson	*on the*	*9th*
Arlene Papa	*on the*	*9th*
Alessandra Woods	*on the*	*9th*
Zoe Mahoney	*on the*	*10th*
Catherine Drescher	*on the*	*15th*
Jeffrey Chatelain	*on the*	*18th*
Leslie Hill	*on the*	*20th*
Paul Perinbaraj	*on the*	*23rd*
David Chirico	*on the*	*27th*
Barbara Irish	*on the*	*27th*



Save the Date:

Warwick Symphony Orchestra's 60th Anniversary Holiday Celebration
Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 3 pm.
St. Bernard's Church
275 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown



Come to the **Thanksgiving Service on *Tuesday*, November 24th, 2026, at 7:00PM**
At **Pilgrim** Lutheran Church.

All confirmation students must attend this service.



Side dishes are requested for our free Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 26th, in our Fellowship Hall.
Dishes may be delivered on Wednesday, November 25th, or on Nov. 26th. **Sign-up sheets for the side dishes** are in the back of the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR VENDORS:



Applications are ***still*** available for St. Paul/Bethany ***vendors*** *(craftsmen and artisans)* for our Christmas Bazaar to be held on *Sunday, December 6th, 2026, 11am* to 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

If interested in renting a table for your handmade crafts, please complete the vendor application included in this Messenger, and return to the church office.



Requests for our Christmas Bazaar on December 6th, 11am to 2:00pm

(1) We are asking for **baked goods** (cookies, special breads, cakes) to sell at our baked-goods table **AND** (2) we would also like to request donations of **gift prizes** (restaurant cards, gift baskets, etc.) to raffle off for our charity, **the Foster Care Connection in RI.** Sign-up sheets will be forthcoming for both these requests.

NOTICE: It has come to our attention that there have been offerings for flowers *without* any information. It is necessary to ***still fill out a green form*** so that the message gets to the office when flowers are ordered for a Sunday without a dedication, etc. If a dedication or donor information is not desired, please indicate on the green form that the offering is *anonymous and/or that there is no dedication.* You still would have received acknowledgement on your statement, but the **flowers would not be ordered without the green form.** Thanks for helping to have flowers on the altar on Sundays.



St Paul / Bethany
Congregation, many thanks
for all your prayers for
over one and a half years.
It has been a long
recovery, I feel I'm
walking much better.
Certainly your prayers
were welcomed and very
much appreciated.
Thank you,
Arlene L. Popa



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to St. Paul/Bethany Lutheran Church for your generous donation of much-needed items to the Emmanuel House in Providence !

Mike Marzullo and the residents of Emmanuel House

Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

Thank You

October 21, 2026

St Paul Evangelical Lutheran
Church 389 Greenwich Ave
Warwick, RI 02886-1632

Dear St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of $2,000.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

"From [Christ's} fullness we have al/ received, grace upon grace."
-John 1:16

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none ofus could do alone, grace upon grace.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters, in the immediate aftermath and far into the future. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.



We pray for the *following people:*

Erin MacDonnell, **Fred** Linden**, Susan** Brunelle**, Karen** B.**, Pamela** Wilsey**, Peter** Chu**, Hyun** B**, Lucas** Bouthiette**, Rick C., Chris, Nancy** Nelson**,** the **Reverend Dennis** Kohl, the **Reverend Dana** Reardon**, Natalie, Janet** Sundberg**, Allie** Gentry**, Devin** Jacob**, Tara** Cummiskey**, Michelle** Anderson**, Evelyn** Depue, **Katie** Connors**, Sarah** Bruinsma**, Leslie** Hill**, Bernie** Colley**, John** Hopf, **Linda** Davignon, **people of Ukraine and Russia, people of India and Pakistan, people of the Middle East, people of Sudan, Judy** Babikian, **Cathy** Drescher, **Dottie** St. Onge, **Scott** St. Onge, **Steve** Ferick, **Cheryl** Brown, **Mary Beth** and **Albert** Oulette**, Andre Richard** Ginoitt, **Gloria Ines** Yepes, **Jose Luis** Y, **Eliana** Velez, **Obdulio** de Jesus, **Susan** Piluk, **Kathy**, **Janice** Woodbine, **Kurt** Johnson, **Hermana** Faviola, **Joanne** Maria, **Gina** Bouthillette, **Marizol** Velez, **Miguel** Ruiz, **Isobel** Sanchez**, Sebastian** Johan

We pray for our homebound:

Ruth Johnson

We pray for those who serve in the military:

Jennifer and **Blake** Tougas, **Fransheska** Gauthier,

Sam Bryan, **Nolan** Heinz, and **Michael** Farias

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office at 737-6758.



NOVEMBER 2026

FOR SUNDAY SERVICE...on ZOOM

Reminder to please MUTE your device while listening to the service.

LOG IN for Zoom meetings is as follows:

Log in Online
https://zoom.us/j/3172973098
Meeting ID: 3172973098
Passcode: – Warwick

Dial In By Phone
Phone 312-626-6799 or **929-205-6099**
Meeting ID: 317 297 3098
Passcode: 6887533

A recording of the video available by noontime Sundays on the Facebook page and a link on the church web home page.

We are Handicapped Accessible!