

*“Blessed to be a Blessing”:***Remembering Marilyn Schoenleber**

This past month I lost a wonderful friend at Whitnall Park Lutheran Church, Marilyn Schoenleber. As I reflect on her life as a faithful Christian woman, I remember the words *“Blessed to be a blessing”* – God’s promise to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 12 from a Bethel Bible class she taught. This theme, which came up again and again in the lessons, seemed to embody much of what Marilyn stood for in her own life. Feeling blessed, she found happiness in doing what she could for others: *“God’s work, Our hands.”*

After her funeral, I told Pastor Fazio that Marilyn was truly “a little Christ” working quietly in our midst. Few people in our congregation knew how diligently she worked behind the scenes for Christian concerns – **especially to help the hungry and the homeless** and all those served by Lutheran World Relief. She worked humbly, with no expectation of recognition or applause. It will be difficult to fill the void she left. —Marjorie Pagel, Gleanings Editor

Let us all give thanks—WPLC’s Marilyn Schoenleber Food Drive —Sunday, November 15th, make this the best food drive ever!! Stuff our truck with non-perishable foods, the youth group will help you load your food onto the truck. As we give our thanks for our blessings let us share them with others.

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Wednesday, November 25th**

God’s Young Voices and Senior Choir will be singing.

- **Please bring non-perishable food for Hope House on any Sunday**
- **Please bring your aluminum cans and Campbell labels on the second Sunday, November 8th, ONLY.**
- **Dorcas Circle meets Tuesdays at 9:00 am.**
- **Sunday School at 10:00 am—meets in church Sunday, November 8th.**
- **Senior Choir meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm.**
- **Knitting and Crocheting group meets every Tuesday, at 1:00 pm.**
- **Book club meets Monday, November 9th at 7:00 pm.**
- **Health and Wellness Friday, November 20th at 10:00 am.**
- **Worship & Music meets Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 pm**
- **Wednesday Bible Study meets November 11th at 11:30 am.**
- **OWLS meet on Thursday, November 12th, at 8:30 am at Forum Restaurant**
- **Property committee meeting Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30 pm.**
- **Christian Education meeting Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 pm**
- **Bible Study meets Thursday, November 19th, 7:00 pm.**
- **Friends meet Tuesday, November 24th at 9:30 am.**
- **Parish Nurse, Barb Estrada is here on Wednesday mornings but not November 18th she will be here on the Friday, November 20th, of that week.**



SEASONAL AND H1N1 INFLUENZA

As we enter the traditional influenza season in Wisconsin, we expect to continue seeing cases of both seasonal and H1N1 influenza. I know that much has been published about this and we continue to hear reports daily. I would like to just reiterate a few things that we can do, as a congregation, to make this flu season safer for all.

The most important and effective way to protect yourself and family from the flu is to get **vaccinated**. The seasonal vaccine is available already. Both the injected and the spray vaccine have been shown to be effective and have minimal side effects. High-risk individuals and children especially need the vaccine. The H1N1 vaccine will be available soon. Please talk to your personal physician to determine when and where to receive this vaccine. Anyone who is sick with the flu should stay home from work, school, and church for at least **24 hours after fever is gone without use of fever-reducing medicine**. You will likely be home between three to seven days. In addition to staying home when sick, remember to do the following to stay healthy and keep others safe:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Cough into your elbow, not your hands.

Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners (60 % alcohol) are also effective.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. These are the most

common entry points for the germs to enter your body. If symptoms persist or worsen, call your primary care physician for further treatment.

For everyone's use, **we have placed alcohol-based hand gel and tissues** all around the church building. You will find stations at each entrance (look under the Pastors' Pictures in Hornburg Hall). Thank you for doing your part in keeping both yourself and all individuals safe and healthy this season! —Barb Estrada, RN, Parish Nurse

Add these to your
calendar—

- 1.—The **Whitnall Friendship Circle** is again selling wreaths and other evergreens, including some items available for mailing. (See insert in this issue of the Leaf.) Circle members will be available to take your orders between services and after second service through November 1st. Wreaths will be available on **Sunday, Nov. 22**. All profits will be used for renovation of church entry. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be matching funds up to \$250. Questions – check with Dolores or Vern Vorpahl (414-761-2819). Please use the insert to order.
- 2.—**WPLC will host Women of the ELCA Joint Cluster**

Gathering on Saturday, Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m. – noon. The program will be “*Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible*” (a film), followed by

Bible study with Pastor Pam Kerschner. Lunch will be served at 11:30 in Hibbard Hall. Registration for the program and lunch is \$8; program only (no lunch) \$2. Please register in advance on sign-up sheet on kiosk. We are expecting about 80 women for this event. Help will be needed for set-up and food preparation on Friday, and serving and food preparation on Saturday. If you would like to help but are not available Friday or Saturday, we will need desserts and casseroles, which may be prepared in your home. Please call Marjorie Pagel, 414-425-4066 to volunteer.

3.—**Book Club** — join the group and read — ***When Bad Things Happen to Good People*** by Harold S. Kushner on **November 9th at 7:00 pm**. Further information available from Sandy Sannes 414-425-5634 or Jennifer Breese, 414-651-5515.

4.—If you've served our country, please submit a **photo of yourself or a family member in uniform** to the church office to be used on a picture board honoring your service during a special service recognizing **Veteran's Day on Sunday Nov. 8th**. We want the opportunity to make known the members, friends and family members of WPLC who have given of themselves in service to the USA.

Condensed Council minutes from

WPLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM 9-22-09

Members in attendance: Kris Laposki, Ruth Rice, Betty Hembrook, Van Johnson, Jill Underberg, Gloria Brinkmeier, Reg Simpson and Pastor Michael Fazio.

(Kyle Sorvick and Ralph Llanas have withdrawn from council)

Pastor led devotions.

Nominees for Council – We now have four nominees to serve on council for the new term starting in October. They are: Jennine Sonntag, Lou Graef, Sandy Sannes and Donna Winiarski. Election will take place at the semi-annual meeting on October 4th.

Secretary’s Report – Ruth Rice

Minutes from the 8-25-09 council meeting were approved with the following corrections:

- Under Technology Updates -- Keith Jankowski is not updating the church website. This is being done primarily by Roger Brinkmieier and various other church members.
- Under Evangelism/Publicity – the date for the Blessing of the Animals is 10/3/09.

Treasurer’s Report – Van Johnson

We are approximately \$1,500 better than a month ago.

PASTOR’S REPORT

Pastor Fazio submitted a breakdown of all pastoral acts for 8/26/09 – 9/22/09, which include leading worship and preaching at 8 services, 1 healing service; 2 pre-baptism meetings, 1 baptism (Olivia Martens); 2 pre-marriage meetings, 1 funeral internment (Heidi Keske); 4 hospital visits; 5 pastoral counseling appointments; 6 home visitations; 14 home/hospital communions, 1 acolyte training class and all regularly scheduled book groups, bible studies and committee meetings.

Pastor also reported that he has an opportunity to attend a Clinical Pastoral Education program (CPE) for parish ministry. The classes are conducted in Elkhorn from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Thursday beginning this November and running through May 2010. Pastor would take Thursdays as his day off during this period, so he would be attending classes on his own time. The total cost is \$745 and continuing education funds for 2010 would be used to cover this expense. Enrollment is limited – many will apply, but only six people will be accepted into the program. Council approved the use of continuing education funds towards this program and offered our prayers that Pastor Fazio is chosen to participate in the class.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Endowment – No report	G r e e n
Committee – No report	
Audit Committee – No report	Worship
& Music – No report	
Mutual Ministry – No report	E v a n -
gelism/Publicity – No report	

Stewardship – Kris Laposki

Commitment Sunday will be October 18th. The existing “time and talent” sheet will be used along with pastor’s cover letter.

Fellowship – Kris Laposki

The church picnic was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Social Ministry

- All LWR school kits and quilts must be packed by Friday, 10/2. Boxcar loading is scheduled for Saturday, 10/10. The Crop Walk is coming up on 10/11, and pledges will continue to be accepted up through 10/25. Matching funds up to \$800 are available. Every \$3 raised by WPLC will be matched by \$1 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.
- In reply to a question asked last month, Social Ministry reports they do NOT have a separate bank account for Hope House, Hunger Task Force, etc.

Continue on page 5

Continued from page 4

Finance Committee – Van Johnson

- Cost of a dedicated system (laptop/printer/software) is being researched for church financial reporting, with a possible start date at the beginning of 2010 and being transitioned to the next treasurer when Brent Rice retires.
- Council must write a letter to Endowment Committee asking for donation to be put towards the mortgage fund. Money won't be given to the congregation automatically; we must ask.
- Several church members have volunteered to count weekly offerings on Sunday mornings. This will be done on a trial basis for the month of October, and the regular Monday morning counting team will take the month off.

Christian Education – Pastor Fazio

We have a shortage of Sunday school teachers, as "lead" teachers must be age 21. Recognizing that we do have some capable young adults in our congregation between the ages of 18-21, a motion was made and approved to amend our policy requiring lead teachers to be responsible adults age 18 or over. Exceptions can be made on a case by case basis. A booth for Sunday school teachers will also be included in the ministry fair to help recruit new teachers.

Property – Van Johnson

- Front sidewalk to the main entrance still needs repair. At what location does the work stop? Contractors submitting bids will be asked to price all segments of the work individually and on a combined basis to help the committee make a decision.
- The waste pipe going out from the church building appears to be sunk – a sign of leakage. No cracks were found upon inspection.
- A request has been made to install receptacles for disposal of feminine hygiene products within the stalls in the women's restrooms.

Health & Wellness – Jill Underberg

- The blood drive was very successful – we had a full roster. Tentative date for the next blood

drive is July 20, 2010.

- Over 20 people registered for the informational presentation on Health Care and Financial Powers of Attorney.
- The presentation "What to do When Your Money Runs Out" is postponed till 2010.

Next meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10/27/09.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rice, Council Secretary

Open Letter to Whitnall Park Lutheran Church Members:

Dear Friends,

Members of our organization feel blessed to be a part of WPLC's history. Our circle of friends are long-time dedicated members who comprise the service organization called Whitnall Friendship Circle. Times are changing for us and we are looking for new members to carry on the social and fundraising traditions that have taken place since the inception of this church. Our "circle of friends", along with help from church members, have been directly responsible for raising and giving back to WPLC over \$122,000, and we are proud of our accomplishments over the years.

Family changes, social demands, and father time have reduced the number of our members from 50 down to 20 over the years! New energy and new ideas are needed to help sustain Whitnall Friendship Circle in order to continue the fundraising activities on behalf of WPLC.

Please pick up a copy of our informative booklet at church, then talk to an existing member about joining. We are open to new ideas and suggestions. Membership takes a minimal amount of time and effort, it's inexpensive, it's easy and fun, and it's rewarding! Help us to continue to give back to Whitnall Park Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,

Members of Whitnall Friendship Circle
Jim Gaffney, President

Birthdays

- 1 Evelyn Modrak
- 2 Claudia Hoffmann 30
Debra Mlnarik
Ruth Rice
- 3 Marilyn Beier
Jodi Graef
- 4 Katayoun Fazio
Julane Gaffney 8
Aimee Schlueter 10
- 5 Sharon Ehleiter 22
Jacob Hause 24
- 6 Shane Arthur 26
David Brown
Marilyn Simpson
Ronald Sorenson
- 7 Todd King
William Nelson
Kristine Peyer
- 8 Emily Biloff
- 10 Mitchell Broadhead
- 11 Warner Kilbey
Gina Sparacino
- 12 Rachelle Hasenstein
- 13 Kathleen Clark
Joseph Hasenstein
- 14 Sidney Arthur
Anna Fredrickson
Sandra Krause
- 15 Grace Vukich
Larry Wills
- 16 Dean Krychowiak
- 17 Nicole Thompson
Daniel Underberg
- 18 Collin Krainer
Deborah Thome
- 19 Emily Brown
Tricia Henneberry
- 21 John Just
Christopher Sorenson
Danielle Sorenson
- 23 Lynda Brothen
- 24 Donald Schubert
- 25 Janet Cook
Allen Palmersheim
- 26 Heather Nelson
Justin Sparacino
- 27 Brady Aderman
Greg Saari
Dorothy Simonson
- 29 Samuel Bukowski

- Ronald Noeske
- Linda Shea
- Laura Staats
- MaryAnn Labott
- Susan Schlueter

Anniversaries

- 8 Ken & Beth Jaeger
- 10 Philip & Deborah Krajewski
- 22 Wayne & Sandra Baumgart
- 24 Dean & Marilyn King
- 26 Allen & Luverne Palmersheim 62

Ralph Klute, Minister of Music



A big Thank You is owed to all!!

I would like to start off by saying how overcome with gratitude I have for this wonderful congregation. I never in my dreams thought that many people would turn out for such a scrumptious pot luck dinner on a Packer Sunday. I can't begin to say thanks to all that brought the food, those of you that gave more than their thanks to me in the form of cards, gifts and well wishes and to all who organized this lunch. I am honored to be your music minister here at Whitnall Park Lutheran Church. I also want to assure all of you I have no intentions of leaving. How could I with all the fun and enjoyment I have here and the support all of you have given my family in prayers and well wishes. The clock and plaque were just two of many wonderful tokens of appreciation I received plus the many cards. I will cherish all the jokes and quips that came off that day as just being so special from so many of you that are special in all you do. My parents and brother were very humbled by the love and support you have shown. Many a tear in happiness was shed. I hope another twenty years goes by and I am still here. I am sure those that were not able to attend will be able to see pictures and hear stories from those that were in attendance as it was a most memorable day! Thank you again and may God bless all of you with a song in your heart always.

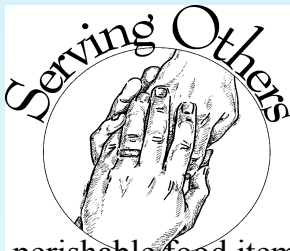
WPLC Minister of Music,
Ralph R Klute

PRAYER CHAIN

It has come to my attention some Prayer Chain members are NOT receiving prayer requests. When you receive a request, please contact the member you usually call. If you cannot reach that person, please contact the next person on your list. This will "activate the chain." Then call the person you usually contact & inform them of the prayer request and mention who you have contacted.

Prayer requests should be given directly to me at 425-9229. Thank you and God Bless you.
June Jensen

Social Ministry Update



November 15th

we will be collecting non-perishable food items and filling a truck to take to the food pantry. The youth group will be taking your bags and putting them into the truck on Sunday morning. When you are doing your shopping please remember the food drive.

Lutheran World Relief 95 Dorcas Quilts 368 School Kits

The boxes of quilts and school kits were taken to the box car in downtown Milwaukee on Saturday morning, October 10th. Thanks to all of the members of Whitnall Park who participated in this outreach ministry. The recipients of the quilts and school kits will be forever grateful for the warmth and shelter provided by the quilts and the opportunity to go to school. What Whitnall Park has done will make a real difference in the lives of many persons.

Mitten tree: Social Ministry Committee will again sponsor the Mitten Tree to benefit children and adults at Hope House. Place mittens, gloves, warm caps, and scarves on the Mitten tree beginning Sunday, **November 15th.**

CROP Walk

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

The Greater Milwaukee CROP Walk took place on a sunny but cold Sunday afternoon on October 11th. Whitnall Park had 34 walkers, including members of the Confirmation Class and Youth Group. The walkers were Jodi and Kathy Graef; Brittney Henneberry; Julie Herriges; Jennifer and Kylie Just; Alyssa, Amy, Danielle, and Jessie Kaboskey; Sara Kussard; Corrin Laposki; Georgi and Samantha Llanas; Jon Malczewski; Amber and Brian Martin; Gerald and Marjorie Pagel; Dorothy, Greg, and Melanie Saari; Sarah and Sue Schlueter; Charles Schoenleber; Christopher, Danielle, Julie Anne, and Ronald Sorenson; Kraig Sorvick; Cody Suchla; Patricia Suderland; and Dan and Maddison Underberg. See the photo showing most of the walkers.

Pledges will still be taken after the deadline for the November Leaf so the final total raised is not yet known. The Youth Group did donate \$43 from their October 11th Coffee Hour and the Social Ministry Committee contributed \$63 from their September and October Coffee Hours and \$300 from their Fresh Garden Produce Table. The remaining funds came from individual donors.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has again provided up to \$800 in matching funds. For each three dollars raised by Whitnall Park, Thrivent will add one dollar. By applying money (designated for shipping Lutheran World Relief quilts and school kits from the warehouse in Maryland) given in memory of Marilyn Schoenleber by her brother, Richard Wilde, Whitnall Park will have raised the entire \$2,400 needed to obtain all \$800 of the Thrivent matching funds.

Thanks to everyone who brought in food items, walked, or sponsored a walker with a pledge. Please see the December Leaf for the final total raised and some of the programs that the money raised supports.

WPLC CROP Walk volunteers—



November 1 ALL SAINTS

- 8:30** **Assisting Minister** Linda Shea **Acolyte** Tyler Henneberry
Ushers Ron Hause, Carl Hanson
Greeter Audrey Grabarczyk
Altar Guild Jim & Linda Shea
- 10:00** **Assisting Minister** Kim Mason **Acolyte** Alyssa Kaboskey
Ushers Sid Arthur, Katie Mason, Ron Noeske
Greeter Joan Henderson **Nursery** Susan Schlueter
Altar Guild Julie Ann Sorenson

**November 8 Services with Healing/Blessing of Prayer Shawls —Children meet in church
Honoring Veterans**

- 8:30** **Assisting Minister** Lou Graef **Acolyte** Amber Martin
Ushers John Hembrook, Dorothy Perkl, Don Jensen
Greeter Evelyn Klug
Altar Guild Bernice Sparacino
- 10:00** **Assisting Minister** Ron Labott **Acolyte** Melanie Saari
Ushers Tom Laposki, Brian and Kristi Peyer
Greeter Marilyn King **Nursery** Jill Underberg

November 15 Marilyn Schoenleber Food Drive

- 8:30** **Assisting Minister** Kristin Martens **Acolyte** Andrew Schlueter
Ushers Jim and Linda Shea
Greeter Joan Lance
Altar Guild Krista Bainbridge
- 10:00** **Assisting Minister** Tom Laposki **Acolyte** Sara Schlueter
Ushers Larry Pfeil, Jack King, Brian Martin
Greeter Louise Ludwig **Nursery** Tricia Henneberry
Altar Guild Pat Suderland

November 22 Christ the King Sunday

- 8:30** **Assisting Minister** Marjorie Pagel **Acolyte** Maddison Underberg
Ushers Jim Gaffney, Duane Hause, Lyle Lance
Greeter Sharon Hause
Altar Guild Evelyn Schubert
- 10:00** **Assisting Minister** Ruth Rice **Acolyte** Jeffrey Johnson
Ushers Jerry Pagel, Jerome Thome, Walter Sievert
Greeter Sandra Krause **Nursery** Samantha Llanas
Altar Guild Dolores Vorpahl

November 29 First Sunday in Advent

- 8:30** **Assisting Minister** Jane Dillon-Perkl **Acolyte** Kylie Just
Ushers Jim and Linda Shea
Greeter Shirley Meyer
- 10:00** **Assisting Minister** Mike Sparacino **Acolyte** Georgi Llanas
Ushers Jerry Pagel, Walter Sievert, Brian Martin
Greeter Charlotte MacPherson **Nursery** Danielle Kaboskey
Altar Guild Sandy Abraham

**From M.E., Kelly Brown
Minister of Education**

HAPPY FALL!

While our Wisconsin weather is not so pleasing, don't lose sight of the Autumn blessings.

We have added some music to our weekly Sunday school time. During the last fifteen minutes of Sunday school, 3 & 4 year olds through 4th grade, God's Young Voices, we gather together and sing some of the old familiar tunes and even learn some new ones. We will be sharing these songs with everyone when we sing in church once a month.

What are we learning:

This month the children will be focusing on Elijah and the many things he experienced.

Reminder: Daylight savings time ends November 1st.

Thanksgiving Tummy Ticker. . . .

Q: What did the turkey eat for Thanksgiving?

A: *Nothing, he was already stuffed.*



The Youth Group would like **THANK KIM GRAEF for all she has done as a Youth Group leaders for the past 6 years**, and we wish her well as she is relocates to Phoenix, AZ. Kim recently graduated from UW-Milwaukee with her Master's in Occupational Therapy will be working at the Christian Care facility in Phoenix, AZ. **Good Luck Kim, we will miss you!**

The annual **Crop Walk** on Sunday, October 11th was a great time! Thank you to Sara Kussard, Corrin Laposki, Kraig Sorvick, and Youth Group Leaders, Jodi Graef and Kathy Graef who joined in with the 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation class and their families to make this year's walk a success. The Youth Group also donated \$43 collected during their sponsored coffee hour on Sunday to the Crop Walk. A special thanks to the congregation who made pledges to support all the youth on this year's walk!

The WPLC Youth Group would like to invite all 7th & 8th Graders to join Youth Group. If you are interested in becoming a member and have any questions, please call or email Kathy Graef, Youth Director (414-349-4020, kgraef@otiesolutions.com).
Kathy Graef, Youth Group Director

**God's Young Voices (GYV) –
New Sunday School Choir**

– Kathy Graef, Director

Parents and Congregation, I know that everyone enjoyed the God's Young Voices song that was sung at the beginning of 2nd Service on Sunday, October 13th. Something new is happening this year to make it easier for our children to be able to sing to the Glory of the Lord. We have designated the last 15 minutes of Sunday School each week to have fun learning songs to sing in church the 2nd Sunday of each month and for Special Holidays - Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

A letter went home on October 11th to the parents of ages: 3,4,5 year olds through 4th grade, informing the parents about GYV and asking them to let Kathy Graef know if they would be able to bring their children to church at **9 AM on the 2nd Sunday of each month** so that the kids could sing at the end of 1st Service and the beginning of 2nd Service. The **WPLC Senior and God's Young Voices Christmas Concert is on December 13th (2nd Sunday)** and it would be great if the kids could sing at both service that Sunday.

The parents were also asked to advise if their child/children would be available to attend the **Thanksgiving Eve service on November 25th arriving at 6:30 PM**, as we have a joint service at 7PM with the UCC church at **Whitnall Park Lutheran Church**. Parent if you would like to email or call me with your questions and concerns, please feel free to do so. Phone: 414-349-4020, email: kgraef@otiesolutions.com.

November 2009

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>11:30 AM Confirmation Class</p> <p>ALL SAINTS</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM Dartball</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitting & Crocheting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM Parish Nurse</p> <p>11:00 AM Caregivers group</p> <p>7:30 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
				<p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Office hours</p>		
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>HONORING VETERNS DAY </p> <p>Services with Healing</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM BOOK CLUB--Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner</p> <p>7:00 PM Dartball</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitting & Crocheting</p> <p>6:30 PM Property Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Christian Ed Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship & Music</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">LEAF Articles are due</p>	<p>11 </p> <p>Remember Our Veterans</p> <p>Parish Nurse</p> <p>11:00 AM Caregivers group</p> <p>11:30 AM Bible study</p> <p>7:30 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 AM OWLS meet at the Forum</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Office hours</p>	<p>14 </p> <p>8:30 AM—WPLC host Women of the ELCA Joint Cluster Gathering</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>10:00 AM Baptism</p> <p>Preston Duensing</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>11:30 AM Confirmation Class</p> <p>Marilyn Schoenleber Food Drive </p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM Dartball</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitting & Crocheting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00 AM Caregivers group</p> <p>7:30 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Assemble the LEAF</p> <p>7:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Office hours</p> <p>10:00 AM Health & Wellness Meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Parish Nurse</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group meeting</p> <p>Christ the King Sunday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>9:30 AM Friends</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitting & Crocheting</p> <p>7:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 AM Parish Nurse</p> <p>11:00 AM Caregivers group</p> <p>7:00 PM God's Young Voices and Senior Choir singing.</p> <p>7:00 PM WPLC THANKS GIVING WORSHIP</p>	<p>26</p> <p>THANKS GIVING DAY</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>thanksgiving</p> </div>	<p>27</p> <p>OFFICE IS CLOSED</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>11:30 AM Confirmation Class</p> <p>First Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 PM Dartball</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Marilyn Schoenleber FOOD DRIVE Sunday, November 15</p> </div>				



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I begin this month's letter with some bad news for our family...our dog Buckles has cancer. She has undergone surgery and we now wait to see how she will recover and whether or not the cancer has spread. We are the type of people who really incorporate our dogs as members of the family, so this news has hit us pretty hard.

In the wake of this diagnosis, Kathy and I have engaged in some pretty lofty conversations regarding life, commitment and the extent to which we get involved in each other's lives. I wanted to share with you some portions of our conversations; I know they were helpful to us and I believe that they are applicable to many of life's situations.

We talked about the forthcoming pain and sadness we will face when Buckles ultimately passes away...this is easily the most difficult scenario for pet owners (and for families in general). In the midst of this conversation, we discussed whether we would get another pet and go through all of this again. We decided that we would indeed...pain and sadness are part of what makes us distinctly human and mourning the loss of a loved one is the culmination of a good and healthy relationship.

We always have a choice in life when it comes to relationships...we can enter into them, jump in whole-heartedly and expose ourselves to all the joys and blessings, sorrows and pains that come with them. Or, we can remain on the surface, guarding our innermost selves against hurt and pain and keep a safe distance when these difficult feelings arise.

If we choose the latter and protect ourselves too much, we loose out on many of God's great gifts in life. Sure it's hard to loose a pet or a friend or a family member; but if we say "goodbye" to that special person following a long period of loving and healthy relationship, we can face our pain in the midst of loving memories that will feed our souls far beyond the limits of a lifetime. It's worth the risk to make ourselves vulnerable to pain and hurt if it means that we fully live and fully love those around us.

Loss is never easy and the journey toward joy following death is often long and painful...but that's where Jesus' words come in to provide us peace and comfort. "Remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

May we always be grateful for the relationships that God allows us to have in this lifetime...may we live fully and unobstructed from fear...may we allow ourselves to be vulnerable to pain and live in the fullness of all that we are as children of God. Thanks be to God the gift of our little dog...we pray for her recovery, but trust in the comfort of the memories of love and companionship she's given us over the years.

God's Peace and Blessing,
Pr. Michael