



FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH WHITE OAK,
PENNSYLVANIA

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All Saints Sunday
November 3, 2024
Grief Unbound



We get so much emotive action in this All Saints gospel! There is weeping and more weeping. There is deep regret, “what ifs,” and “if onlys.” We hear how deeply loved Lazarus was, and even Jesus is moved in body and spirit.

Grief is a full-body experience, and it is comforting to know that our God, in the form of Jesus—completely human and completely divine—fully understands this. Death stinks—there is no getting around it. Death stinks for the loved ones left behind, and decay (“Lord, already there is a stench”) signals a finality to all living things.

And yet . . . All Saints Day is a time when we celebrate the finite human existence and how resurrection shows up beyond this. Jesus declares to Lazarus’s loved ones, “Unbind him and let him go,” resurrecting Lazarus back to life. During All Saints worship, we remember our loved ones who have died, and we hold fast to Jesus’ proclamation of resurrection for them. Death is no longer the end of their story, or ours. Jesus has promised eternal life and a love that goes beyond any tomb we find ourselves trapped in.

All Saints Day is a time when you do not have to pretend that everything is okay. Grief is a part of the human experience, and it is a messy, smelly, loud, and overwhelming ride. May you know that no matter where you are on this day, God shows up next to you, weeping and disturbed. There is no stench that keeps God away.

May you know that your grief is holy. May you also know that this grief is not the end of your loved one’s story or yours. Someday we shall be unbound. Someday we shall be whole. Someday all shall be well.

Presiding Minister: Rev. Randy Marburger
Worship Leader: Dr. Wendy S Farone, Vicar
Assisting Minister: Melanie T

The Sanctuary Light is given to the Glory of God.
The Columbarium Light is given to the Glory of God.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance Hymn ELW 422 For All the Saints

Hymn of the day ELW 427 For All Your Saints, O Lord

Communion Hymn ELW 638 Blessed Assurance and **ELW 635** We Walk by Faith

Sending Hymn ELW 645 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Communion- If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, you can either stand at the step or stay in your seat and Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is acceptable.

Membership- There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any and all congregation activities; and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your request for membership.

October 26, 2024: 12

October 27, 2024: 21

Bible Storytelling, October 29, 2024: 17

Insert- Today the Processional (gathering) Hymn and the Prayers for Remembrance are on an insert.

Remembering the Saints- Today, in place of the Brief Order for Confession and Absolution, we will be remembering our deceased loved ones. You are welcome to place a memorial votive candle near the altar, baptismal font, or columbarium. If you need assistance, let someone know.

Baking for Mission Agape for Thanksgiving: Drop off for baked goods for Mission Agape is 11/12/2024 from 5pm to 6pm. They are asking

recipients to freeze the desserts. They are providing ingredients this year, they are not cooking. Address for Mission Agape is 1201 Prescott Street White Oak, PA 15131. Drop off is at their cafeteria entrance. Parking is available in their lot and walk down to the cafeteria entrance. Mission Agape is located above the gym at Penn State Greater Allegheny.

Mission Agape Toy Drive- We are an official drop off point. Bring unwrapped presents before December 15th. Times for drop off will be posted later.

White Oak Season of Lights Celebration – Saturday, November 20th. See details of the Pancake Bruch with Santa and the Holiday Market on the bulletin board.

A Noisy Offering on Sunday November 24th will be taken for Mission Agape. Time to clean our your pocket change! Dollar bills also make noise, just not as loud as coins! All money donated will go towards food items requested by Mission Agape. Vicar Wendy will be taking the confirmands shopping with this money and incorporate it into a confirmation lesson.

Harvest Home and Thanksgiving offerings – When using your Harvest Home and Thanksgiving envelopes (or any envelope marked Harvest Home or Thanksgiving), please keep in mind that your donation will go to Mission Agape and Meals on Wheels.

McKeesport Area High School Honors Veterans – Friday, November 8 at 9:30 am with concert and light refreshments. See poster on bulletin board for more details.

Poinsettias - Please see form inserted in bulletin. **Orders and money due by Thursday, November 28th.**

Bible Storytelling – It is Psalm Tuesday this week! We are grateful that Vicar Wendy will be leading our discussion of **Psalm 89**, *I will sing the mercies of the LORD* on November 5th at 10:00 a.m. Also, there will be cake! Please join us and bring a friend, too.

Faith Library -The Faith Library is open to everyone! Read, borrow and return. It's free!

Calendar at-a-glance:

Nov. 4, 2024: Quilting 7:00

Nov. 5, 2024: Election Day

Nov. 9, 2024: DAR 9-3

Nov. 11, 2024: Bruce Campbell, Insurance Services, noon – 4

Nov. 18, 2024: Quilting 7:00

Nov. 19, 2024: McKeesport College Club 7 pm

Nov. 26, 2024: Thanksgiving Community Service 7 pm at Bryn Mawr Church of Christ in White Oak.

For more calendar information check out updates in Faith's

Website: <https://www.faithwhiteoak.com/>