

# THE TRUMPET

*St. Michael's of the Valley...making an eternal difference in each other's lives and in the world*

St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, PO Box 336, Ligonier, PA 15658

Phone: 724-238-9411 Church office hrs. Monday – Friday 9 AM until noon

November, 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We've already had a few mornings of frost, days of gloriously-colored falling leaves, and afternoons with the smell of wood smoke in the air. This is a rejuvenating time of the year!

It's also the time of harvest festivals and events. October passed by so quickly. The theme for the first weekend was 'blessing.' I blessed the Rolling Rock Hounds and the Hunt, then went fox hunting for the first time in years, and the next day blessed a number of super-friendly dogs on a cool, blustery afternoon at Mellon Park. The following weekend I stood next to the re-enactor who shot his musket to mark the beginning of Fort Ligonier Days, and offered the beginning and closing prayer. This past Saturday afternoon Cindy Purnell and I attended a Farm to Table Feast hosted by Carol's store over in the Rector Pavilion. It was a lovely event.

As you will see from the article about the work of the Vestry, it too has been busy accomplishing much for our beloved parish in October. The steeple has been repaired and repainted, except for the strip around the base. That will be finished hopefully soon, before the cold weather sets in. We are pulling together a few people to assist me in calling a new organist, and we are planning a stewardship celebration for Sunday, November 5th, All Saints Sunday.

Naturally, the focus for November is gratitude. To assist in your spiritual preparation for Thanksgiving, I've included George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation in its entirety in this issue of the newsletter. Please consider reading all or part of it at your family's Thanksgiving Day celebration, especially with younger family members.

God has been so good to us at St. Michael's this year. I am grateful to be your rector, and for each one of you. To paraphrase Psalm 16:6, "Our boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, we have a goodly heritage." We plan to build on that 'goodly heritage' this upcoming year with new staff, renewed ministries, and new ministries. I hope you will continue to bless one another with your presence and your prayers as we move into the colder months.

May Christ's peace be with you and your families.

Faithfully,

*Marjorie +*

Marjorie +

## *Thanksgiving Proclamation*

[New York, 3 October 1789]

By the President of the United States of America. a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord—To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Go: Washington

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER**

*Sunday, November 5, 2023 ~ All Saints Day*

First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

*Sunday, November 12, 2023 ~ Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

*Sunday, November 19, 2023 ~ Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

First Reading: Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

*Sunday, November 26, 2023 ~ Last Pentecost*

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

## **SCHEDULE OF NOVEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES**

November 5th - **One combined service**

9:00 am Rite II

All Saints Day

Children's Offering

followed by Stewardship Brunch

No Adult Christian Ed.

November 12<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Adult Christian Education 9:15 a.m.

Coffee Hour after 10:30 a.m. service

November 19<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Adult Christian Education 9:15 a.m.

Coffee Hour after 10:30 a.m. service

November 26<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II

Adult Christian Education 9:15 a.m.

Coffee Hour after 10:30 a.m. service

## SCHEDULE OF SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> ~ one combined service ~ 9 AM

Lay Reader: Jan Carlin

Usher: Jim Beck

Sunday, November 12, 2023 ~ 8 AM

Lay Reader: Joe Moravec

Usher: Ray Speicher

Sunday, November 12, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM

Lay Reader: Laura Fisher

Usher: Rex Ashbrook

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~ 8 AM

Lay Reader: Bobbie Off

Usher: Joe Frederick

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM

Lay Reader: Cindy Pompelia

Usher: Mick Pompelia

Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> ~ 8 AM

Mary Walton Whittemore

Joe Frederick

Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> ~ 10:30 AM

*still needed*

Carl Campbell

## PET BLESSING HELD IN MELLON PARK

The dog days of Summer are usually the warmest, and are technically the 40 days in July and August when the dog star, Sirius rises and falls in conjunction with the sun. At St. Michael's, our dog day is in October, around the feast of Saint Francis, patron saint of animals, and is marked by a Blessing of the Pets.

This year on the afternoon of October 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Michael's and St. James Lutheran Church in Ligonier, held a Pet Blessing in Mellon Park. Although it was a damp and chilly day, dogs of all shapes and sizes were in attendance. Each and every one (along with their person) received an individual blessing by Reverend Bevans. Before the blessings, a short service focusing on gratitude for all creatures great and small was conducted by Reverend Bevans and Pastor Jono Adams. In addition, donations totaling \$100 for Action for Animals in Latrobe was collected.



## **THE WORK ON THE CHURCH STEEPLE HAS BEEN COMPLETED**

The work and painting of the church steeple has been completed. Thank you to Mike Shaffer painting and his crew for their hard work and dedication to restoring the church steeple. It looks great! Special thanks to Alec Mellon for taking and sharing the pictures.



## **REPORT ON THE OCTOBER VESTRY MEETING**

Nancy Rost hosted an in-person meeting and supper for the October 16th Vestry meeting. There was some discussion related to the financial information and the status of the pledge income. It is hoped that all pledges will be fulfilled before the end of 2023. The audit and our insurance carrier were briefly discussed. Rev. Bevans reported on her community activities which included the blessing of the Rolling Rock Hunt, the blessing of the pets as well as the opening and closing prayers for Fort Ligonier Days. She is eager to begin the search for a permanent organist/musician. If any parishioner has a music background and would be willing to help in this search, please give her a call.

Sean Murphy reported that the water filtration system was replaced recently by H2O Restoration after it was discovered in September that the system had deteriorated and was not functioning. He noted that certain windows had been replaced, that the Rector's office has new drapes and that the steeple repair and painting has finally been addressed. (Be sure to check it out)

Our Stewardship Campaign is underway. Pledge cards and a letter have been sent to all parishioners. There will be a single service @ 9 AM and a celebratory luncheon on Sunday November 5th. It is not too soon to begin planning for our next Vestry Class of 2025. If you are interested in this important ministry, please contact Sean Murphy.

We briefly discussed the Christmas Eve services. There will be an afternoon family service and an evening service.

# Operation Reindeer 2023!



St. Michael's will once again be participating in collecting items for the patients at Torrance State Hospital. Following is a list of needed items. There will be a collection bin inside the Smith House in front of the bulletin board. Donations can be put in that collection bin from November 12th thru December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Following is the list of items needed:

**Please, no items with glass, BELTS or razors or other safety hazards**



## Clothing

New Men's size XL or larger Women's size L or larger  
(XXL and larger and 1X and larger sizes are greatly needed)  
sweat shirts & pants, tops, tee shirts, pants or jeans  
bathrobes (no belts), jackets, coats, outerwear  
socks, mittens, gloves, hats, ear muffs  
sweaters, undergarments, pajamas



## Toiletries



Shampoo/conditioner, soap, body wash, brushes, ponytail holders,  
hand/body lotion, shaving gel/creams, lipstick, gloss, powder,  
eye shadow, mascara, lip balm, blush



## Miscellaneous

Craft kits, puzzle books,  
CDs/DVDs Games, activity books, handheld games,  
CDs/DVDs, Batteries (especially AA)  
wallets, watches, radios  
sports memorabilia (especially Pittsburgh teams)  
writing paper, stationary items especially with stamps  
diabetic or sugarless items

**Portable CD players are greatly needed!**

We are again collecting gently used luggage.

# THANK YOU!!!



## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

St. Michael's will once again be participating in the Salvation Army bell ringing campaign on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 3 PM in front of the Giant Eagle in Ligonier. Please sign up on the sheet that will be posted on the bulletin board in the Smith House for a half hour or hour shift.

## THANK YOU AND ART WORK

### FROM THE CHILD WE SPONSOR THROUGH AGUA VIVA



Thank you for sponsoring me this year!  
Your support makes a big difference!  
May God bless you!

Urbano Mario Roberto SUCUQUI GIRON.