

THE LAUREL LEAF

LET'S CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING TOGETHER (Again!)



You may be alone this holiday or just don't feel like fixing a complete meal. Our church is blessed to share this Thanksgiving meal with each other. **The meal will be held in Fellowship Hall beginning at Noon on Thanksgiving Day.** Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and beverages will be provided. **People attending are asked to bring a dish to share. Please contact the office with the side you will bring.** Volunteers to help with setting up the day before and cleaning up after the meal will be appreciated. If you plan to attend, please call the church office at 525-1866 so that we will have a correct count for food amounts and table space.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning November 27th and 28th

Pastor Kent Lolling will lead an advent study using the book by James W. Moore, *Christmas Gifts That Won't Break*. Come to the Tuesday morning at 6:30 a.m. study, or Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. study. Call the church office to order a book. Cost is \$12.00.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH and YOUTH SUNDAY Sunday, November 18th

Children's Sabbath and Youth Sunday is a time to praise God who has blessed each of us. We are the lucky ones --- Look to God's vision for us and all children to have shelter and warmth, to have plenty of healthy food, to be safe, to have a good education and to be surrounded by loving and caring families. Many children go to bed hungry, many children do not have a safe place to stay, many children cry themselves to sleep at night. On Sunday November 18th there will be a graffiti mural in the Parlor titled:

**"God's Vision for Children, Families
and the World"**

Please take a few minutes to write or doodle on it. Our goal is to raise awareness of the needs of children and families in our community and world and to find ways to meet those needs. We change the world one day and one heart at a time.

We will also celebrate an infant Baptism at the 9:30 worship hour, and the Presentation of the 3rd Grade Bibles at the 10:45 worship hour.



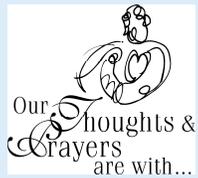
Emily Hale will be 96 years old on November 18th.

Clara Lu Davies will be 92 years old on November 23rd.

Robert Kyes will be 93 years old on November 28th.

Jack and Carolyn Reynolds will be married 72 years on November 17th.

Dean and Norma Snyder will be married 50 years on November 27th.



November 18 – 24

George & Jean Hanson; JoEllen & Dan Higgins; Shirley & Earnest Jones; James, Karen & Lucas Osgood; Glenn, Jennifer, Blair & Ross Jones; Kip, Andrea, Zack & Drew Leverton.

November 25 – December 1

Doug Hahn; Dana, Rich, Julie & Erin Saal; Dana Piper; Beverly Sanders; Bob & Carolyn Stine; Mark Stine; Todd, Valerie, Benjamin & Olivia Turner.

December 2 – 8

Steve & Robin Read; Pat Staff; John, Joyce, Ashton & Whitney Ridings; Ron DeLong; Barbara Rowe; Dustin, Stacy, Lynn & Millie Loseke; Tom, Pam & Miguel Bohrer.

Caring Thoughts from the Parish Visitor

Gail Lehmann



Karen Ettinger found this poem in her mother's old Bible. I thought it was appropriate to share it with you at this time when you are probably thinking about making that pumpkin or pecan pie for Thanksgiving.

Family Pie

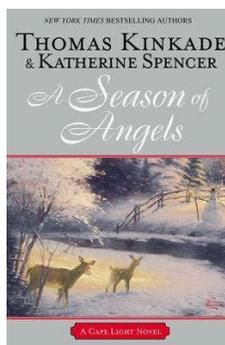
One handful of forgiveness,
One heaping cupful of love,
One pound of unselfishness,
Mix together smoothly, with complete faith in God.
Add two cups of wisdom,
One cup of good nature for flavor,
Then sprinkle generously with thoughtfulness.
This makes a wonderful Family Pie.
One complete pie will serve any size family.

Happy Thanksgiving



We wish to express our condolences to: The family of Mary Welch at her recent passing, and Ginny Bayless and family at the recent loss of her mother.

LAUREL BOOK CLUB



The November book is *A Season of Angels* by Katherine Spencer and Thomas Kinkadee. Our meal will be potluck. Please bring an appetizer to share. Rita Rey will be the discussion leader.

Synopsis:

Christmas evokes heartfelt songs of joy and devotion. Yet so often we hold back and fail to express our feelings of love and joy to the ones we hold dear. This year, the residents of Cape Light and Angel Island will learn to speak what's in their hearts.



THE STAR TREE

The Star Tree for Chaddock is up! Choose a star or stars off the tree found in the Parlor, and make this Christmas extra special for every child under Chaddock's loving care. Deadline for bringing gifts is Sunday, December the 2nd. Do not wrap them. **Drop the gift off in the appropriate age wrapped box and replace the star on the tree.** Thank You!

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DECK THE HALLS—A Whole Family Event Sunday, December 2

After Sunday School, after church --- Let the decorating begin! We will divide up and decorate designated areas of our building. There will be trees to put up, lights to hang and decorating projects for all ages. Please sign up in the parlor for the area you would like to work in. Take a break as you decorate and enjoy Brunch which will be available throughout the morning. P.S. Remember to bring the whole family!

NATIVITY DISPLAY

We would like to display Nativities of all kinds and sizes in Fellowship Hall and in the Parlor. Please bring your Nativity starting November 25th through Monday December 3rd. **Make sure your Nativity parts are labeled so that pieces do not get mixed up or lost.**

Bring your whole family starting on Sunday December 9 to tour the Nativity Display.



CAROLING WE WILL GO—A Family Event!

**Sunday, December 9
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Come ready to leave the parking lot at 5:00 p.m.



We will Carol a Merry Tune and then return to Laurel to warm up with Hot Chocolate, snacks and a little Christmas fellowship. Check the weather and dress warm as we will be outside!

Don't sing? Volunteer to say a silent prayer at each house or volunteer to have the snack and the hot chocolate ready when the group gets back! (We have had a neighbor request that we return to their street again this year!)

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

During Advent come to the Chapel and find a time of quiet in your busy schedule. There will be several prayer stations, some with guided meditations, some interactive as you follow your prayer journey. The prayer stations will be available whenever the church doors are open starting December 3rd. Please feel free to come and find peace in your day.

Preparing for Christmas

VESPERS at MILLIKIN December 1st and 2nd

With concerts at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Vespers ("Evening Prayers") signals the beginning of the holiday season with an evening of carols, choirs and candlelight at Millikin University in Decatur. This is their 59th annual celebration. *Tickets are \$12.00 for Adults, and \$10.00 for Seniors 65 and older and Children. Tickets can be purchased through the Box Office at 217-424-6318.*

ILLINOIS COLLEGE CONCERT "Christmas on the Hilltop"

**Saturday, December 8th at 7:30 p.m.
At IL College in Jacksonville, IL**

The Illinois College choirs and the Wind Ensemble and other instrumentalists will perform a free concert open to the public. It's very popular, and usually standing room only, so advise folks to arrive early.

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS AT LAUREL

**Saturday, December 15th
4:00 p.m. at Laurel UMC**

Don't miss this beautiful combination of traditional carols and new favorites, by Laurel's choirs and accompanied by an orchestra of local musicians.

Sunday School CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**Sunday, December 16th
10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

All children have an important part in this celebration. The toddlers through 2nd graders will sing. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders present the pageant, and the Jr. and Sr. High tie it all together with script and music.

THE CAPITAL CITY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

"We Need a Little Christmas"

Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m.

Directed by Mary E. Myers, The Capital City Men's Chorus will present a concert of favorite Christmas songs. \$10.00 at the door.

DAY OF PRAYER

**Monday, December 17th
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

This is a quiet time of prayer for your concerns or praises at this holiday season. Prayer will be continuous from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and we ask for a 30-minute commitment. The sign-up will take place in the Parlor on Sundays or throughout the week beginning December 2nd.



*From heaven above
to earth I come*





Thanksgiving family fun!!

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever.

Psalm 106:1

Count your Blessings projects for the whole family choose the ones that will work best for you family.

Blessing jar/box: Choose a jar or box, decorate it and place it where you will see it each day. Each time you are reminded of something that you are thankful for, write it on a slip of paper and add it to the jar.

Blessing Tree: Find a “tree shaped” bare branch and place it in a pot of sand. Cut out leaf shapes and each time you think of a Blessing, write it on a leaf and hang it on the branch.

Sticky note Blessings: Write each of your Blessings on a sticky note and stick them

where they are easily seen --- refrigerator door is but one idea.

And may the blessings of each day overflow!

Other ideas for Thanksgiving fun:

- * Make place cards for Thanksgiving dinner— use Bugle snack chips for a cornucopia on the place card.
- * Butter pat shapes: roll softened butter between wax paper — about 1” thick, use mini cookie cutters to form shapes—arrange on a plate.
- * Make hand print turkeys
- * Make turkey head bands
- * Make butter: 1 milk cow or 1 cup of whipping cream, 1 jar with a tight lid, . Pour whipping cream into jar and shake, shake and shake some more! When cream forms a ball, stop shaking. Pour off extra liquid. Add a little salt (optional) Next, use wooden spoon to mix and press out extra liquid. Enjoy home made butter on Thanksgiving!!

Hurray for the fun, Is the Turkey done?

Hurray for the Pumpkin pie!!!

Symbols of the season Snacks

Bugles Brand Corn Snacks - represents a cornucopia, a horn of plenty.

Pretzels - represents arms folded in thanks and prayer.

Candy Corn and/or Corn Nuts Brand Snack - during the first Winter, the pilgrims were each allotted only 5 kernels of corn per day because food was so scarce.

Dried or Candy Fruits - Thanksgiving is the celebration of the harvest.

Peanuts and/or Sunflower Seeds - seeds represent the potential of a bounteous harvest for the next season if they are planted and well tended.



For these blessings and so much more, we give thanks to God.

“O give thanks to the Lord”

Psalm 105:1

Thank You's ...

- The Lolling family would like to thank the Jr. High Youth Group for this year's decorated pumpkins. You really outdid yourselves this year. It was fun to decorate the house with them and have the neighbors enjoy them as well. Thanks.
- Kumler Neighborhood Ministries would like to thank all the generous people at Laurel for the coats and food donations. The coats came at just the right time! October was a busy month at Kumler. We served over 1300 people. Laurel continues to be a generous partner and we give our thanks to all of you for your continual support.
- A little Mission—Thank you for the 97 coats you donated to be shared in our community! These will be shared through Kumler Outreach Ministries. They were very appreciated of the coats, and said they came at the very right time!
- Thank you for the Trick or Treat for Kumler contributions. We sent **261** items to Kumler Neighborhood Ministry's food pantry.

LAUREL'S LIGHTS TEAM NEWS...

Laurel's Lights Relay For Life team is inviting you to become a team member. We are busy planning our fundraising events for this season and welcome new ideas and helping hands. **We meet the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Room 106.** Come see what we are all about. If you have questions please contact Pat Kuster or Rhonda Howland.

Laurel's Lights invites you to dine at Panera on **November 19th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** We will receive 20% of your purchase. Flyers about this fundraiser will be available in the Parlor as we get closer to the date. Drive through orders also qualify.

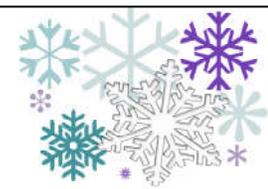
WREATHS and SWAGS will be distributed from Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 18th. And if you did not order a wreath, come on down and check out the many Christmas items in our **Christmas Pop Up Rummage Sale!**





TGIF November 2018

Our goal and purpose is to know the good news of God's love, fellowship and care for each other, reach out into the community, share in God's word and to offer ourselves in service to God.



Time to Text

Psalm 100, 1 Chronicles 16:8; Numbers 6: 24-26; Numbers 23:20; 1Peter 3:9; Genesis 24:31; Deuteronomy 15:10-11; Psalm 21:6; Psalm 29:11; Psalm 34:8; Luke 6:20-22

Give thanks ...For all the things you encounter throughout your day.

November 18th is **Youth Sunday and Children's Sabbath**
We will again have an art display. If you have items you would like included, let me know. We do all three services -- If you have questions about your part, let me know -- call, text, e-mail...

Deck the Halls!!! Sunday, December 2nd

After Sunday School, after church --- Let the decorating begin!! We will divide up and decorate designated areas of our building. There will be trees to put up, lights to hang and decorating projects for all ages. Please sign up for the area you would like to work in.

If you have a **Nativity** to add to the display, bring it on Sunday, November 25th or December 2nd.
Come the first Sunday in Advent and help Deck the Halls!!!
Yes, there will be food!!

A Caroling We Will Go—A Family Event!

Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Come ready to leave the parking lot at 5:00 p.m. We will Carol a Merry Tune and then return to Laurel to warm up with hot chocolate, snacks and a little Christmas fellowship. **Don't sing?** Come to pray for each caroling stop and come for the food and fellowship!!
P.S. Remember to bring the whole family!!!

Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 16th at the 10:45 service.

Give me your ideas for the program.
There will be a part for everyone!!

Lots of dates----put them all on your calendar!!!

Come on Sunday Morning!!!

Fellowship and sharing our faith journey is important. We need to dig into God's Word and discover ways to be God's hands and feet in our world and in everyday experiences.
Come Sunday morning and join the group.

Double Edge

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword... Hebrews 4:12
All High School youth are invited!

Double Edge Schedule:

- (Time 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted)
- November 18 Youth Sunday/Children's Sabbath
- November 22 Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 25 TBA
- December 2 College Boxes
- December 9 A Caroling we will go!

Riot

(Rejoice in One Truth)
All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited!

RIOT Schedule:

- (Time 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted)
- November 18 Youth Sunday/Children's Sabbath
- November 22 Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 25 TBA
- December 2 College Boxes
- December 9 A Caroling we will go!

Double Edge (high school group) and Riot (Middle School youth group) meet Sunday evenings from 6 – 8 p.m., unless other wise noted.

A snack supper is served when the group's activity is at Laurel. Our schedule is posted in the Laurel Leaf newsletter and youth receive weekly mailings. A schedule is sometimes posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.

You are always encouraged to contact JoAnn at 525-1866 (Laurel) or e-mail at joverholt@laurelumchurch.org with any questions, ideas and/or suggestions.



Laurel United Methodist Church

631 South Grand Avenue West
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone: (217) 525-1866
www.laurelumchurch.org

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Reverend Kent Lolling , Directing Pastor	klolling@laurelumchurch.org
Pam Rouse , Director of Finance and Administration	prouse.laurelumchurch@gmail.com
Dyann Miller , Executive Secretary	dmiller.laurelumc@gmail.com
JoAnn Overholt , Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries	joverholt@laurelumchurch.org
Alyce Foster , Director of Hospitality	afoster.laurelumchurch@gmail.com
Gail Lehmann , Parish Visitor	glehmann@laurelumchurch.org
Deb Watts Elliott , Organist/Pianist/Music Coordinator	deb.watts@live.com
Doug Hahn , Music Director	
Mary Myers , God's House Band Leader	memyers65@msn.com
Carissa Filipiak , Chime Time Director	
Elaine Gentry , Childcare	
Sheila Campbell , Childcare	
Tyler Molt , Custodial	
John Elliott , Evening Ambassador	inquiries@JohnElliottBooks.com