

November

newsletter

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Gratitude Changes Everything

A devotion by Sharon Jaynes
available on Crosswalk.com

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and so I've been thinking about gratitude a lot lately. What is it? When should we show it? What does God say about it? Paul wrote the Thessalonians, "Give thanks in all circumstances" (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*). Most read that verse and think it rather nice. So we slap a sloppy coat of thanksgiving on life and go about our day. In reality, most of us are thankful for very little.

Notice the Bible doesn't command us to feel thankful in all circumstances. Instead it commands us to "give thanks in all circumstances." When I begin to praise God in a difficult situation, even if I don't feel like it, many times the scales fall from my eyes and I begin to see glimpses of His glory sprinkled on the black backdrop of the situation like diamonds on black velvet.

Sometimes I don't see glory in tragedy, but I still can praise God because I know He is there. Gratitude changes the lens through which we see the circumstances in our little slice of time. Thanksgiving changes our perspective despite broken dreams, broken relationships, tumultuous circumstances, and unfulfilled longings.

As you praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He's done, your perspective of Him grows larger and your problems grow smaller. As a result, you will experience a deeper sense of intimacy with God as the emotional gap between what you know to be true and how you feel at the moment closes.

When we stop complaining and grumbling and begin speaking God's love language of gratitude, our perspective will change as well. We will begin seeing moments of sudden glory through the lens of praise and thanksgiving—glory moments that were there all along, but hidden from the grumbling eye.

Dear Lord, I praise Your Name. I exalt Your Name forever. Even though I may not understand what is going on in my life, I trust that You are good and Your plans are good. In Jesus' Name, Amen



OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Coming Together ✠ Growing in Faith ✠
✠ Serving the Lord ✠

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

60th Anniversary Year!

November 2026 | Volume 60, No. 11

A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.ourlords.org

October 31 & November 1 *All Saints' Day Weekend*

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 7 & 8 *24th Weekend after Pentecost*

Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 14 & 15 *25th Weekend after Pentecost*

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 21 & 22 *Christ the King Weekend*

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 28 & 29 *1st Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37



Listen to services using your phone or tablet!

Scan the QR code or download AudioFetch on Google Play or iTunes.

**Saturdays at 5 pm
Sundays at 9 am**

**Saturday and Sunday services
will be livestreamed.**

NOVEMBER GIVING EMPHASIS

REACH HIGHER Campus Ministry Endowment Fund supporting Lutheran Campus Ministries

If we are going to grow the involvement of youth and young adults in the church we need to invest in them—relationally, spiritually, and financially. One of the many ways we invest in our youth and young adults is through Lutheran Campus Ministry.

A synod-wide Campus Ministry Endowment Fund has been established to not only to sustain the ministry of our three current campus ministries at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois State University in Normal, and Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, but to encourage growth both at our existing sites and at possible new sites around the synod.

Together, let us reach higher by reaching the students engaged in higher education across our synod, including those who have not yet come to know Christ's love. Together, let us reach higher as we grow new leaders across the church. Together, let us reach higher by growing our own generosity as we make this vital investment in ministry with youth and young adults.

As the author of Colossians writes, "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God" (3:1). As those who have been raised with Christ, let us reach higher, seeking the things that are above, all for the sake of the gospel—the gospel that proclaims to us that in Christ Jesus, God reaches down to us, lifting us up through Christ's life, death, and resurrection for the sake of the world.

Funds given this month will be forwarded to the REACH HIGHER! Capital Campaign. Monetary donations can be made to OLLC via ACH bank transfer, by check (please note "Campus Ministry" in the memo line), or by using your smart phone and following the QR code which takes you to the OLLC giving page, select "Monthly Giving Emphasis" to make a donation that will be used to support Campus Ministries.



Thank you for your generosity and support!

You make a difference. We are grateful to share life and faith together with you at **Our Lord's Lutheran Church,**

We invite you to consider how, next year, you can continue to make a difference for good in your own life, in the life of our congregation and in the life of the world. Your generous giving to **Our Lord's Lutheran Church,** combined with the generous giving of others, fuels God's work here and helps to fulfill our mission of

Sharing Christ's Love with All—Fulfilling God's Mission with Our Hands!

We ask that you prayerfully consider growing your giving to Our Lord's by 1% of your household income.

Your past gifts of time and money have made possible all the important ministries of our congregation. We thank you for your prayerful consideration of this request to grow your generous support so that, together, we can do even more in Jesus' name.

Commitment cards will be mailed around November 11. We ask that you return the cards by Commitment Weekend, November 21-22 when we will dedicate our pledges to God's Work through Us.

Our Lord's Church Council

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Our Call Committee has interviewed several exceptionally compassionate candidates from across the country. We have been impressed by their experience, gifts, and commitment to ministry, and we remain confident that, with God's guidance, the right pastor will be called to serve Our Lord's Lutheran Church.

We will continue working closely with the Synod to receive and consider additional candidates as we prayerfully move forward in this process. In the meantime, we ask for your continued prayers and support for our Call Committee, the Synod leaders assisting us, and one another throughout our congregation. Thank you for your patience, faith, and encouragement as we trust God to guide OLLC into this next chapter of ministry.

OLLC FALL BAKE SALE

PUMPKINS, SPICE & EVERYTHING NICE

Our Lord's
FALL BAKE SALE

NOVEMBER 21 & 22

following worship services

*Bakers Needed! If you can provide baked goods for the sale, please sign up on the signup sheets in the narthex..
All baked goods need to be at the church on the morning of Nov. 21.
Items should be packaged and ready for sale.*

Questions? Call Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046) or Karen Cummings-Larson (314-306-5987)



Crafters Needed

Crafters are needed for 2 sessions in November to make handcrafted items to sell at the Fall Bake Sale. No cost to participate, all items will be made to sell at the bake sale. Materials will be provided.

RSVP to Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046) or Karen Cummings-Larson (314-306-5987)

November 3 & 10 @ 6:30 in the WC Commons.

SERVING OUR LORD'S



Mark your calendars, OLLC serves SOS November 10 and December 8

Assistance with preparation and serving the meal will be needed. Signup sheets will be available in the narthex several weeks prior to each OLLC serving date.

Donations to support OLLC S.O.S. can be given via check, cash, or note "S.O.S." in the memo line. If you have any questions contact Julie Preston.

Worker Bees will meet Saturday, November 7.

**Breakfast @ 7:00 am, Red Apple Restaurant
Church @ 8:00 am**

If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Chuck Pugh.



OLLC MUSIC!

Chancel Choir & Handbell
CHOIR

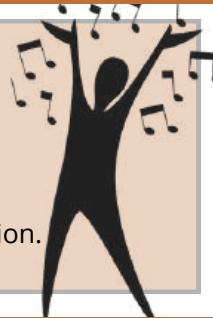
**Chancel Choir, Thursdays, 5:00 pm
Handbell Choir, Thursday, 6:00 pm**

Contact Addie Mays for additional information at
love2haveu@ourlords.org

Praise
BAND

**REHEARSALS: Saturdays 3:30 pm
PERFORMANCES: Saturdays 5:00 pm**

Contact Olivia Cross for additional information.
oecross@gmail.com



OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

Next Book Club meeting will be **November 16th at 11:30 am**. We will be discussing "The Barman of The Ritz" by Philippe Collin. New members are always welcome!

OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS

Crafters will not meet in November. The next meeting will be **December 2, noon-3:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Kathy Nehrt with questions.

3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Congregation Game Afternoon
Fellowship Hall

November 8 - December 13

Bring your favorite game, bring a friend, and bring a snack to share!

PRE-SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS & ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Pre-K & Kindergartners and the Grades 1-5 children meet in the Life Center on Sundays at 10:15 am!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The class is continuing with the *Faith Inkubator* confirmation materials. Upcoming sessions include: November 1, November 15, & December 13. Any questions, contact Debby Gunderson.

FEEDING THE SOUL

Meets on **Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00 pm.** We are discussing "As You Go" by Dr. John Claypool. All are welcome!

MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY

Meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

All women are invited to join the Morning Glories Bible study.

This fall we are studying the book of Matthew: "**Max Lucado Life Lessons from Matthew**". Matthew accepted Christ's invitation to follow him and never turned back. He spent the rest of his life convincing folks that this carpenter was the King. The relationship Jesus had with Matthew can serve to convince us that if Jesus had a place for Matthew, a tax collector, he just might have a place for us. Discover the life lessons from Matthew's gospel and how Jesus' relationship with a tax collector can inspire us to follow him too!

QUESTIONS BIBLE STUDY

Death, Dying, and the Afterlife: Lessons from World Cultures

Mondays at 10:00 am; OLLC Life Center

After thousands of years of pondering it, we still find death one of life's most perplexing mysteries. Many cultures have view death as a window into the true meaning of life. These 24 lectures looking at this often feared subject are an uplifting, meaningful, and multidisciplinary exploration of life's only certainty. Bringing together theology, philosophy, biology, anthropology, literature, psychology, sociology, and other fields, they are a brilliant compendium of how human beings have struggled to come to terms with mortality.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Everyone listed here is important to a person of the congregation. Please include them in your praying throughout the week so that they know and feel God's power and presence. We will usually keep names on this list for three to four weeks. Please let us know if an individual should be removed before then or if there is a change in their condition that requires ongoing prayer. Member names may be listed for much longer periods of time

CONGREGATION MEMBERS

Linda Spencer	Jim Trucano
Brian Kassing	Ethan Baczewski
Don Klingsick	Nona Echevarria
Rod Orr	Irene Vanhooser
Joyce Tatjenhorst	Dave Gocken
Dave Chaffee	Sue Homes
Mike Williams	Carole Callahan
Emily Callahan	Julie Gruber
JoAnn Hartke	Paul Schwartzkopf
Nicole Williams	Don Schlonat
Keith Jensen	Mike Hester
Jackie Schlonat	Lance Wellener
Sara Davidson	Caryl Kassing

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Shelley Bruntjen	Stephanie Bridenbaugh
Ken Bunetic	Tyler Murphy
Bob Dunn	Anthony Picarello
Nancy Easton	Kevin Wyvell
Tate Buckhaus	Harry & Donna Schleckle
Dan & Martha	Rich & Niecy Essington
Jim & Mary Barker	Judy & Sonny Past
Elaine Kendall	Anthony Haslit
Brie Jenkins	Pastor Sharon
Pearl	Dominic Bossetto
Michelle Simms	Nel Kennedy
Glen Roth	Wayne Morgan
JoAnne Johnson	John Jorgenson
Joan Truckenbrod	Gary Koch
Terri	Larry T
Donna & Harry Schlechte	Camden Geiler
Ray & Robin Gagnon	Catherine Green
William Larson	

PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

Family & friends of Carla Barrett (sister of Robin Wellener).
Family & Friends of Bill Hardy (brother of Cindy Pugh).
Family & Friends of Pam Melton (sister of Chuch Pugh).

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell	Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith	Erica Webb, US Private E-3	Amador Ochoa
Major James Carmichael	Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)	SrA Paul Kampwerth	Capt. Blake Crosby
Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby	MSgt. Stephan Spencer	John Meyer	Josh Pace
Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby	Zach Huff	Zachary Neubauer	Scott Prengel

November Birthdays

Zachary Tiemann	Jeanette Goetter
Christopher Diggs	Robert Schorr
Sara Davidson	Susan Peterson
Shelly Trucano	Jim Schickel
Alex Williams	Susan Rimar
Keegan Charles Pugh	Megan Sallee
Kolby Matthew Pugh	Elizabeth Beauchamp
Don Baden	Paul Kampwerth
Lydia Maye Blind	Don Klingsick
Lisa Goodwin	Carol Orr

Clayton Robert Helms
Carol Helf
Caryl Kassing
Briley Bruninga

November Anniversaries

Kevin & Beth Giese
Jeff & Donna Beauchamp
Nathan & Maureen Johnson
Chad & Caitlyn Baczewski
Joe & Denise Cigliana
Justin & Kirby Orr
Rod & Carol Orr
Jeff & Hilda Scheiter

REMINDERS

PRAYER LIST

Please let the office know if you would like to add a new person, remove a current person, or change the status of anyone on our prayer list. OLLC practice includes removing individuals from the prayer lists **after 3-4 weeks** unless an update is received.

PRAYER VENTURES

Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available at: www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES

Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

OTHER INFORMATION

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -- <https://www.elca.org/>
Central Southern Illinois Synod -- <https://www.csis-elca.org/>

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER

- December 2, 11, & 18 - Advent Services (TBD)
- December 7 - Greening of the Church
- December 12 - Children's Christmas Program
- December 24 - Christmas Eve
- December 25 - Christmas Day

December Giving Emphasis:
Sleep in Heavenly Peace

JANUARY

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 6 - Epiphany
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 30 - OLLC Annual Meeting

January Giving Emphasis:
TBD

FEBRUARY

- Valentines Dinner & Concert (TBD)
- February 10 - Ash Wednesday
- February 17 - Holden Evening Prayer
- February 24 - Holden Evening Prayer

February Giving Emphasis:
TBD

COUNCIL BRIEFS

As we prepare for the Christmas season, several important dates and activities are taking shape at Our Lord's Lutheran Church. We look forward to celebrating this special time of year together and sharing the joy of the season with our congregation and community.

- Our Time, Talents, and Treasures journey is underway! Over the coming weeks, we will explore **The Joy of Generosity** and discover what God teaches us about giving with grateful and joyful hearts. Together, we will reflect on God's plan for generosity and embrace a powerful truth: **generosity is something God wants for us, not simply something God wants from us.** May this journey deepen our faith and help us discover the joy that comes from sharing the blessings God has entrusted to us.
- Our **Children's Christmas Program** is scheduled for Saturday, December 12. On **Christmas Eve**, we will offer two services: a Praise Service at 5:00 p.m. and a Traditional Service at 7:00 p.m. **Christmas Day** worship will be pre-recorded and available for online viewing. The weekend services on December 26-27 will be held without Communion.
- Our **December Giving Emphasis** will support Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization dedicated to helping children in need have a bed of their own.
- Looking ahead to the new year, our **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for January 30, following an early Praise Service. A light meal will be provided between the service and the meeting.
- We are also excited to welcome the Synod to Our Lord's on November 5 for their meeting. We look forward to sharing our church's hospitality with our Synod partners.

As the busy holiday season approaches, thank you to everyone who contributes their time, talents, and support to make these activities and celebrations possible. May this season bring joy, fellowship, and renewed hope to our congregation.

**OUR LORD'S
MINISTRY TEAM**

OLLC STAFF

Sarah Woods
Administrative Assistant

Addie Mays
Director of Worship Music for
Sundays & Special Services

Olivia Cross
Leader of Non-Traditional
Worship Music

Dr. Rhonda Comrie
Organist

Benjamin Maynard
Worship Tech
Livestreaming Specialist
ProPresenter Slide Designer

CHURCH COUNCIL

Gail Jorgensen President

Dr. Emily Truckenbrod
Vice President

Dr. Terry Ackerman
Secretary

Dr. Laura Schoenecker
Treasurer

KaLonny Short
Member At-Large

MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Kathy Nehrt: Education

Cindy Pugh: Fellowship

Mo Johnson: IT

Deb Ackerman: Service

Vacant: Worship

Sunday School:
Lisa White

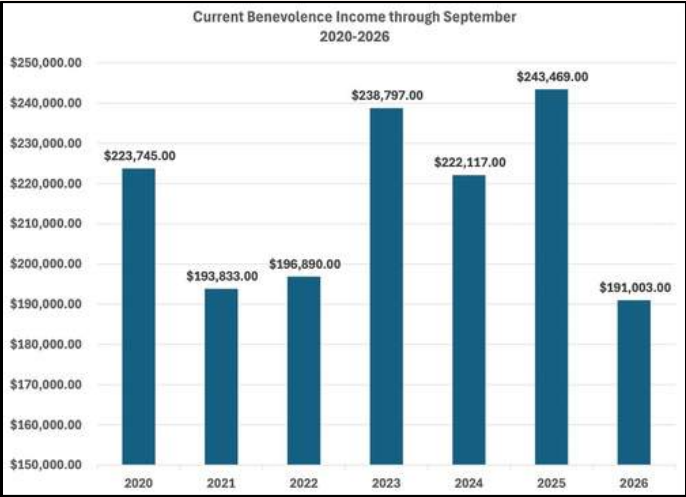
Fair Trade Store:
Mike Williams
vablu2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:
K. Cummings-Larson

Facebook:
Maureen "Mo" Johnson

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary taken from report provided by OLLC Treasurer Laura Schoenecker
If you have any questions, please contact Laura at lswanso@siue.edu.



The above graph illustrates *Current Benevolence Income* since 2020 and shows that *Current Benevolence Income* is at its **lowest level since 2021**. In 2026, we are not paying a full-time pastor, so the congregation's *Current Benevolence Expenses* are also much lower. Looking to the future, when we are blessed to call a new pastor, our expenses will increase significantly.

General Benevolence Income

September 2026.....\$12,793

YTD \$192,587 (budgeted \$237,375
-\$44,788 (significantly lower than projected)

General Benevolence Expenses

September 2026\$16,721

YTD \$152,035 (budgeted \$231,948)
-\$79,913 (significantly lower than projected)

*Thank you for sharing your financial
resources with this congregation in
support of the mission we share.*

To give, simply scan this QR code with your smart phone. The QR code takes you directly to the OLLC giving page. On the giving page you have the opportunity to identify if your contribution is for Benevolence (church expenditures) or for one of the designated funds. Of course, cash or checks are always welcomed. No matter which method you choose when giving to OLLC, all donations received will help us sustain our ministries throughout the year.



During September

- General Fund Balance: \$86,774.12
(The General Fund is used for paying budgeted expenses. Its balance is affected by Current Benevolence Income and Expenses.)
- Both Current Benevolence and Current Benevolence Expenses are significantly below budget. The reduced expenses are primarily because we are not currently paying salary and benefits for a full-time pastor.
- General Benevolence Income in September was \$12,793.32, \$1,151 will be sent to C/SIS for Synod Benevolence (9% of GB Giving). Local Benevolence for September is \$128, the year-to-date total for Local Benevolence is \$1,918.
- The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund was \$629.37. Of that, \$99.37 was for School Supplies and \$530.00 was for African Vision of Hope. The \$530 for AVOH was sent in October.



NOVEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1  <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM Pre-K, & Elementary 3:30 PM - Confirmation</p>	2 <p>10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 6:30 PM - Ministry Support Team Meeting - ZOOM</p>	3 <p>7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	4 <p>3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - WC FH</p>	5 <p>9:00 AM Region 5 Boundaries Training for rostered leaders 5:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	6 <p>5:30 PM - 9:15 PM Robotics & Engineering Club - Lego Robotics- LC Basement</p>	7 <p>7:00 AM Worker Bees Breakfast @ Red Apple 8:00 AM Worker Bees at OLLC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
8 <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM Pre-K, & Elementary 3:00 PM OLLC Game Day</p>	9 <p>10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC</p>	10 <p>OLLC Serves S.O.S. 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	11 <p>Veteran's Day 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - WC Conference Room 7:00 PM Lakeview Garden Club Meeting</p>	12 <p>10:00 AM Morning Glories - FH 5:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	13 <p>5:30 PM - 9:15 PM Robotics & Engineering Club - Lego Robotics- LC Basement</p>	14 <p>1:00 PM Robotics & Engineering - Lego Robotics 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
15 <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM Pre-K, & Elementary 3:30 PM Confirmation Class</p>	16 <p>December Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 11:30 AM Serendipity Book Club - LC Conference Room 6:30 PM Church Council - LC Conference Room</p>	17 <p>7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	18 <p>10:00 AM Majhong with Boomer Ladies & More - WC Commons 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - WC FH</p>	19 <p>5:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	20 <p>5:30 PM - 9:15 PM Robotics & Engineering Club - Lego Robotics- LC Basement</p>	21 <p>10:00 AM La Leche League - WC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p> 
22  <p>Christ the King Sunday 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM Pre-K, & Elementary</p> 	23 <p>10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC</p>	24 <p>7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	25	26 <p>Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed</p> 	27	28 <p>3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service</p>
29 <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM Pre-K, & Elementary</p>	30 <p>10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 11:30 AM Newsletter Assembly</p>	<p>November Giving Emphasis REACH HIGHER: Campus Ministry Endowment Fund</p> 				

2027 Commitments due November 21/22

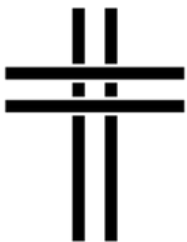
before & after each worship service

NOVEMBER 21 & 22

PUMPKIN SPICE & EVERYTHING NICE
Fall Bake Sale

"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"
Our Lord's Lutheran Church
150 Wilma Drive
Maryville, IL 62062
(618) 345-5692 (Office Bldg.)
www.OURLORDS.org

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November 2026 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED