



Sandy Run Lutheran Church

November Tidings

1927 Old State Road, Swansea SC 29160
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We are preparing even now for our collective national thankfulness pause – a day to stop and give thanks to God for our many blessings.

I can envision those gathered around tables across our nation on Thursday, November 24 – the Day of Thanksgiving – also pausing to ask all of those seated: “What are you most thankful to God for this year” – or some version of that question.

Everyone gets to answer – the youngest as well as the most senior members.

Might I suggest an additional question to consider during this “thankfulness” season? That question is “What are you most grateful to God for?”

Gratefulness or gratitude carries with it not only the idea of thankfulness – not just “great! thanks!” – but such appreciation that we return the kindness we have received.

Gratitude says: “This changed my life for the better – and I recognize my blessing. Now I am going to change someone else’s life for the better.”

Gratitude is “paying it forward” for all of life’s blessings – not just the things of life, but the events and experiences and the ways that our lives have been made better.

Here is the simplest of stories – one I read last week. A man wrote that he got caught in a rainstorm walking down the street with a friend. His friend had a jacket, but he was dressed only in a T-shirt. He was wet and cold.

A woman – a stranger – who met them on the street handed him an umbrella and told him to keep it because her destination was just around the corner. He declined because he would never see her again – but she insisted.

And, so he accepted the gift of the umbrella. That umbrella, he wrote, suddenly made him comfortable. In gratitude, he made up his mind to provide the same kindness to others.

So, maybe this Thanksgiving we start by asking: “What are we thankful to God for?”

And, then we ask: “What are we grateful to God for? The big things? A comfortable life? Good health? Or the simple things? The gift of an umbrella? Or something equally small – something that changes everything, even for a few minutes.

And, how might our gratitude change us so that we make others’ lives better?”

Pastor Pam

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRUNK OR TREAT!

6-7:30 p.m. October 31. Grassy area in front of the sanctuary. Trunks are needed and welcome.

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WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study begins at 10 a.m. Wednesdays in the nursery classroom downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

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THANKSGIVING -- COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Our joint worship with Beulah United Methodist and Mt. Zion United Methodist will be held Sunday November 20 at Beulah. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. by Beulah. The worship service will begin at 6:30 p.m.

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HURRICAN IAN ASSISTANCE

Sandy Run is accepting donations for Lutheran Disaster Response to aid victims of Hurricane Ian in Florida and South Carolina. Make your check to Sandy Run and note Hurricane Ian in the memo line. Deadline: November 13.

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TIME CHANGE

Fall Back

2 a.m. Sunday November 6