

# Trinity Valley Tribune

Gilman ~ St. John's ~ Spring Lake

WWW.TVLPSV.COM

November 2023

## *Mission Statement*

*By the power of the Holy Spirit, Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish is united to increase the vitality of our individual congregations by joining our talents and resources. Together we can better serve one another, share God's goodness, Sacrament, and bring Christ to our neighbors.*

## Church Locations

### **Gilman Lutheran Church**

N8107 330th St.  
PO Box 386

### **St. John's Lutheran Church**

S520 Church Ave.  
PO Box 336

### **Spring Lake Lutheran Church**

N7724 County Rd B  
PO Box 386

## **Spring Valley, WI 54767**

715-778-5935

Office hours : Mon.-Thurs.: 9am-noon Closed NOV 23rd

Friday—closed

Office Staff: Kay Place and Brandie Regenscheid

## **November Events**

**All Saints Sunday & WELCA Thankoffering - November 5th - Gilman**

**Blessing of Hunters & Display Quilts - November 12th - St. John's**

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship - November 22nd - St. John's**

## **December Events**

**Christmas Eve Worship - December 24th - St. John's 9am**

**Christmas Eve Worship - December 24th - Spring Lake 4pm**

**Christmas Day Worship - December 25th - Gilman 9am**

### **November COUNCIL MEETING**

Spring Lake Council—5:30 pm

Gilman & St. John's—6:00 pm

November 14th @ St. John's

## *I'm Grateful...So What?*

It's good to be grateful. Really good. I know people who, when asked how they are doing, say, "I'm grateful." But so what? So you are grateful...do you want me to ask you why? Do you want to tell me about your religion? Are you really grateful or is that just something you say to appear insightful?

This is not a complaint. Thinking about this as a Jesus follower had me thinking...what could I say to others that truly reflects my faith? Here is a suggestion. When I am asked, "How are you"?, I believe the most Christ-like thing I can say is, "I'm well, thanks. How are you?"

This could be a reflection of what took place in the very first Christian church, the one which was established by Jesus' disciples soon after his resurrection and ascension. This church earned the nickname "The Way" because they followed the way of life modeled by Jesus Christ. This was also a bit of an insult, too. Those that followed The Way were, well, too nice. They cared for each other in every way, serving the simplest to most important needs. They accepted those that were shunned by others – the outcast and the marginalized. They ate together, worked together, and most importantly, they worshipped together.

This was countercultural because at that time in history, most people lived for themselves. They tried to please God, to appease God, by doing what they believed would gain God's favor. Other people? They were on their own. People didn't hate each other. The culture almost demanding great hospitality towards all people. But one's faith life was very personal, even selfish. That is, until the first Christian church was established.

That's why I believe the most Christ-like thing I can say to another person is, "I'm well, thanks. How are you?" We are more connected today than ever before (technology!), but we are lonelier, more divided, and more depressed than ever. Suicide and spousal abuse are rampant. We are prone to ranting and raving. We are entertained by ranting and raving. We even believe that to rant and rave is how Christians should interact.

But I believe that countless people need to hear someone say, "I'm well, thanks. How are you?" And they need to such words from someone that is focused, who sees them and will listen to them, even for just a few minutes. And why are Jesus followers the best-equipped to act this way? Because our future is secure. Our identities are affirmed. Our lives are directed by One who offers constant forgiveness and reaffirmation. We are so certain of our future, even in the midst of our current rant-and-rage culture, that we can look at others and truly see them, hear them, and offer a friendly word. We can see them through the eyes of Christ.

Christian author C.S. Lewis wrote, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." Humility is not self-abasement or self-loathing. It is knowing that our daily lives and our futures are in the hands of Jesus Christ – Savior, Redeemer, and Prince of Peace. Humility, in this sense, lies in maturity. It is revealed, in one way, by saying to someone, "I'm well, thanks. How are you?", and truly meaning it.

Blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours. I'm well, thanks, and I hope you are too. I hope you know the security, humility, and power of living in Christ – following Jesus every day, and striving to achieve a deep level of gratitude and hope for yourself and everyone you meet. Especially when the world around us is constantly ranting and raving.

Peace,

*Pastor Bob*

Pastor Bob Friese, Interim Pastor



**FOOD PANTRY HOUR**

**Spring Valley:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed.

10-11:30am & 4:30-6pm

**Elmwood:**

1<sup>st</sup> Tues. 3-6pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. 9-11am

**Last Saturday** of each month 9-11am

**WELCA NEWS**

**GILMAN:**

**Meeting & Bible Study:**

November 9th @ 1:00pm

Hostess: Karen Jorgenson

**SPRING LAKE:**

No meetings until April 2024

Welcome Home in Elmwood

**GRACE PLACE**

Thank you to Gilman Church for supplying the casseroles to Grace Place on October 13th. Volunteers for October were Marlene Aamodt, Karen Jorgenson, Janna Niedermeyer and Lynn Traynor.

The Spring Lake Lutheran Church will be supplying casseroles for Grace Place on November 10th. Volunteers for November are: Trudy Rue, Sally Pierce, Kathy Nyeggen, and Kim Davis.

**November Events**

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship**

**Wednesday the 22nd**

**At St John's 7pm**

**Everyone welcome!**



**Housekeeping Items**

This newsletter is primarily sent out by email. If your email changes, please contact the Parish office at [Bookkeeper@tvlpv.com](mailto:Bookkeeper@tvlpv.com) with the new email address.

If you do not have an email address and are not currently receiving the newsletter via mail, please call 715-778-5935 to be added to list for the newsletter to be mailed to you.

**August & September FINANCIALS  
& ATTENDANCE**

**GILMAN: August**      GIVING  
                                  \$7,126.00  
                                  EXPENSE  
                                  \$6,086.23  
                                  ATTENDANCE  
                                  80

**ST. JOHN'S: August**      GIVING  
                                  \$7,527.00  
                                  EXPENSE  
                                  \$7,703.06  
                                  ATTENDANCE  
                                  145

**SPRING LAKE: August**      GIVING  
                                  \$2,870.00  
                                  EXPENSE  
                                  \$3,851.00  
                                  ATTENDANCE  
                                  61

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**GILMAN: September**      GIVING  
                                  \$10,041.00  
                                  EXPENSE  
                                  \$3,995.36  
                                  ATTENDANCE  
                                  112

**ST. JOHN'S: Sept**      GIVING  
                                  \$7,530.00  
                                  EXPENSE  
                                  \$6,819.30  
                                  ATTENDANCE  
                                  171

**SPRING LAKE: Sept**      GIVING  
                                  \$3,082.00  
                                  EXPENSE  
                                  \$3,106.73  
                                  ATTENDANCE  
                                  52

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**ALL WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE  
 AT 9:00 AM**

**SEPTEMBER**

9-3      Gilman  
 9-10      St. John's  
 9-17      Spring Lake  
 9-24      Gilman—**Sunday School Rally & Bless-  
 ing of Backpacks**

**OCTOBER**

10-1      Gilman—**3rd Grade Bibles**  
 10-8      St. John's  
 10-15      Spring Lake - Fall Festival  
 10-22      Gilman - Fall Festival (**10:30 am**)  
 10-29      St. John's - **Confirmation / Reformation  
 Sunday - Wear red**

**NOVEMBER**

11-5      Gilman  
 11-12      St. John's  
 11-19      Spring Lake  
 Wed. 11-22      St. John's Thanksgiving Eve Worship  
 11-26      Spring Lake


**DECEMBER**

12-3      Gilman  
 12-10      St. John's  
 12-17      Spring Lake  
 Sunday 12-24      St. John's 9:00 am - Christmas Eve  
 Sunday 12-24      Spring Lake 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve  
 Monday 12-25      Gilman 9:00 am - Christmas Day  
 Sunday 12-31      St. John's

**Wednesday Evening Worship 7pm at St. John's**

# November 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Confirmation *M/C/W 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm	2 Bible Study - Valley Villa 10:00 am	3	4
5 Gilman - 9:00am All Saint's Sunday WELCA Thank offering service	6 Quilting - St. John's 9:00 am	7 Pastor @ Welcome Home - Elmwood - Worship 10:30 am	8 Confirmation *M/C/W 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm	9 Bible Study - Valley Villa 10:00 am Gilman WELCA 1:00 pm	10 Grace Place - Spring Lake	11
12 St. John's - 9:00 am Blessing of hunters Display WELCA Quilts	13 Quilting - St. John's 9:00 am	14 Council Meetings Spring Lake 5:30 pm Gilman & St. John's 6:00 pm All at St. John's	15 Confirmation *M/C/W 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm	16 Bible Study - Valley Villa 10:00 am	17	18
19 Spring Lake - 9:00 am	20 Quilting - St. John's 9:00 am Spring Lake WELCA 2:00 pm - Welcome Home - Elmwood	21	22 No Confirmation Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7:00 pm	23 	24	25
26 Spring Lake - 9:00 am	27 Quilting - St. John's 9:00 am	28	29 Confirmation *M/C/W 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm	30 Bible Study - Valley Villa 10:00 am		
			*M/C/W - Meal / Confirmation / Worship Service			