

WILDERNESS WORDS

Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 218-388-9903 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: Rolf
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Carolyn

Readings this week:

First Reading & Psalm:
 Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 and Psalm 24
Alternate First Reading:
Isaiah 25:6-9
Epistle:
 Revelation 21:1-6a
Gospel:
 John 11:32-44

(Click on citation to go to the reading.)

Vicar's Reflections:

This Sunday is All Saints, which was originally a Sunday set aside for "all the other saints," who didn't get a specific day of their own on the calendar. But according to Paul, all Christ followers are 'saints'—those who have been called. It is unfortunate the word has come to be so closely associated with a hierarchy of good deeds, a certain number of miracles, even a kind of pale piety.

What does it mean for you and me to be 'saints'? It means we follow Christ as fully as we can. It means we are part of a community seeking to do this.

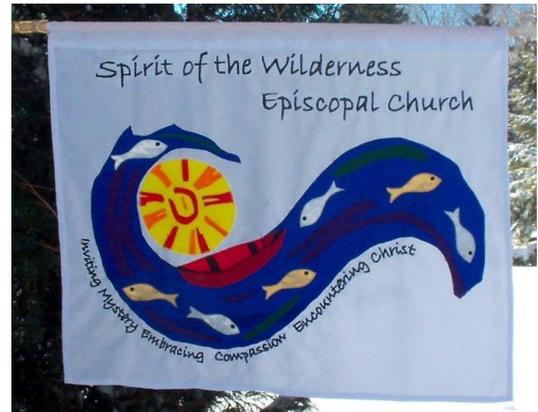
Sounds easier than it is: we struggle to hold the values into which we were baptized. Ideals we embrace as part of our faith—like love of neighbor, hope in the midst of darkness, counting human beings as more important than things—are counter-cultural.

This Sunday we'll not only think about what it means for us to be 'saints,' but also to remember some 'saints' in our lives—people whose lives inspired us, but who are no longer walking this earth. Please bring a small rock with you Sunday and we'll have a chance to put those around our cross on the altar as we speak their names.

I'm particularly aware this year of the fact that we are not meant to hold onto the faith by ourselves. In fact, we can't. You at *Spirit of the Wilderness* have been so wonderfully supportive. When I asked my spiritual director recently if she could help me know how to hold hope and yet be realistic, she reminded me that I need others to hold hope for me, to help share that quest. Responding to that, I've started blogging some of my experience: allmyhopeblog.wordpress.com

As we sing about saints this Sunday: "And there's not any reason, no, not the least, that I shouldn't be one too."

Blessings, *Mary Ellen*



Save these Dates:

Sunday, Nov. 1: Fall back this Sunday - Set Your Clocks!!

Sunday, Nov. 1: All Saints: Bring a small stone of remembrance for someone who has died.

Tuesday, November 10: Ruby's Pantry. Watch for updates.

Thursday, November 12: Empty Bowls. See *Notes*.

Sunday, November 15: Forum after Church. Carol Mork: Year C - A Look at Luke

Wednesday, November 25: Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service. See *Notes*.

Sunday, November 29: SOTW at the Care Center

Sunday, December 13: Forum after Church. Kris Garey: Haiti

Sunday, Jan. 3: From 12:30-3:30, there will be a gathering for all of our preachers at WindCradle. We'll lunch and talk sermons.

Vicar:

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Pastoral Care Committee Assignments:

(week starting) November 1, Dave + Shawn; November 8, Sarah + Kyle; November 15, Sarah + Kyle; November 22, Ellen; November 29, Ellen; December 6,

NOTES

New Blog: Mary Ellen has started a blog about her experience with Steve:
allmyhopeblog.wordpress.com <<http://allmyhopeblog.wordpress.com>> She noted today that Steve's scan shows tumors still shrinking ... thanks for prayers, but keep it up!

Empty Bowls: Thursday, November 12th lots of help needed ... speak to Beth Kennedy

Thanksgiving Service: An interdenominational Thanksgiving service will be held this year, sponsored by the Cook County Ministerium on Wed, Nov. 25 at Bethlehem Lutheran. Fellowship from 6 PM, service at 6:30. Let's all go to this! Mary Ellen

Sunday Treats: Just a reminder about treats for Sunday -- please call me if you are bringing treats because I usually bring some if no one else calls but then we have duplicates or none at all. **Beth Kennedy:** 387-1314 just leave a message if I am not home!

