Spring Garden Lutheran Church

The Messenger – November 2026

Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st. Remember to turn your clocks back before you go to bed on October 31st!

The next **Book Chatter** will be Thursday, November 12th, at 6:30 pm, at the home of Carol Anderson. They will be discussing Heartwood by Amity Gaige.

November is a month filled with dates to remember and celebrate!

November 1 – All Saints Day –We honor all Christian Saints known or unknown

November 3 – Election Day – Please take the time to exercise your right to vote

November 11 – Veterans Day – Honor all Veterans living and deceased wartime and peacetime

November 26 – Thanksgiving – Family and friends gather to enjoy feasts and to give thanks

Checkbook Balances

August 31, 2026: $12,048.55
September 30, 2026: $7,338.38

Is there a difference between being thankful and being grateful?
Gratitude is being grateful, the feeling or quality of being thankful and showing appreciation for kindness, gifts or positive moments in life. Gratitude focuses on appreciation without the anxiety of a transactional debt.

There are some real health benefits from expressing gratitude and feeling grateful. It can lower stress, lessens depression symptoms, strengthens relationships, improves sleep quality and strengthens immune system.

We are both grateful and thankful in this month of November and all year for your Time, Talents and Treasures.

QUILTING OPPORTUNITIES

The Afternoon Quilters will meet at 1 pm on Thursday, November 12th.

The Baby Quilt Ministry will meet at 7 pm on Monday, November 16th.

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will sing during the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 15.

Upcoming Advent & Christmas Activities!

Church Decorating

Please join us after church on **Sunday, November 22nd** to decorate the Church for Advent & Christmas.

A light lunch will be served after the decorating is done.

Deck the Falls

The Cannon Falls Deck the Falls event will be on **Saturday, November 28th.** Many fun activities are being planned, including a parade and fireworks!

*Spring Garden Lutheran Church will be serving cookies and hot chocolate. Watch for more details soon.

Christmas in the Cabin

Christmas in the Cabin will be **Sunday, December 13th, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.** Treats will be served. Please plan to join us for Christmas songs, readings, and fellowship in the cabin.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Christmas program practice begins **Sunday, November 22nd.**

The program will be on **Sunday, December 20th**, during the 10 am service.

There is NO Sunday School Dec. 27th and Jan. 3rd.

From the Pastor…

Dear Friends in Christ,

I regret that my family wasn't one of those who shared what they were thankful for on Thanksgiving. We went to grandma and grandpa Kreuscher's house, played with our cousins, watched football, ate, and then watched "The Wizard of Oz" on my grandparent's color TV. The first time we saw it transformed from black and white to color it was as if we were watching fireworks with all the oohs and ahhs of the 4th of July. But I digress. When I started attending Bette's family Thanksgiving, it was just too large to share what everyone was thankful for; it would take a good two hours for all the 10 children, 36 grandchildren and innumerable great-grandchildren to share what they were thankful for. And even now in our small family I regret that we don't do this. I think this year would be a good year for us to name what we are thankful for.

With all of the division, fighting, hatred, and brokenness in our world, thankfulness can get lost. There's so much I am thankful for. Starting with the basics: looking out and watching the beautiful rain fall upon the dropped leaves; the leaves still hanging on in their bright color; my family: Bette, our children, our siblings, our friends and neighbors, our dogs (even though they won't quit barking). All that we have and all that we are. There's so much that I'm thankful for.

What are you thankful for? Have you told others? Have you told God? I am glad that we have this time to lift up our thanksgiving. But, wouldn't it be great if we carried the feeling of gratitude throughout the year, not just on one day? So, do it! Allow yourself to see the goodness and the greatness of God's creation on a daily basis and start seeing people and creation as the gifts and joys that they are.

Thanks be to God!!!

Pastor Tim Maybee

A Month of Thanksgiving

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving here are 30 thanks-giving Bible verses to help you observe this month of Thanksgiving. Read one verse for the next 30 days and reflect on these questions. 1. How does this text reflect my own life? 2. What/who am I thankful for today? 3. How can I show this thankfulness today?

1. I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 9:1-2)
2. I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. (Psalm 69:30)
3. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! (Psalm 95:2)
4. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. (Psalm 100:4)
5. Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 106:1)
6. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. (Psalm 118:28).
7. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. (Psalm 147:7)
8. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6: 37-38)
9. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. (Luke 17:15-16)
10. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus. (1 Corinthians 1:4)
11. He who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us. (2 Corinthians 9:10-11)
12. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)
13. But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. (2 Corinthians 2:14)
14. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)
15. I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. (Ephesians 5:16)
16. As you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-20)
17. I thank my God every time I remember you. (Philippians 1:3)
18. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

Continued on next page

From the Pastor, continued…

19. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. (Colossians 1:11-12)
20. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 3:17)
21. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 2:6-7)
22. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)
23. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly. (1Thessalonians 1:2)
24. We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)
25. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? (1 Thessalonians 3:9)
26. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
27. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. (2 Thessalonians 1:3)
28. But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)
29. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe. (Hebrews 12:28)
30. "We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty, who are and who were, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. (Revelation 11:17)

"Building A Rural Family In Christ"

Property Board Update

Snow season is here! You will see the snow shoveling signup sheet either being passed around or at the greeting table. Snow removal duty is a weeklong commitment that starts on the Sunday you signed up for and runs to the next Saturday. On your Sunday, if it has snowed overnight, or if there are drifting conditions, you need to have the sidewalks cleared by 8:30 am (before Sunday school starts). You also must salt the sidewalks to prevent slips. We'd rather have a salt mess in the church than have anyone get hurt by slipping and falling on the snow/ice. We keep a bucket by the door with salt in it and will try to keep it full. If there is significant snow, you should use the snowblower inside the entryway. The walks by every door including the sidewalk out the back door to the shelter, the sidewalk to the front double doors, and the sidewalk to the elevator room need to be cleared. Some of these sidewalks are often forgotten, but it is important to keep these paths cleared as well for several reasons - we use the back door during funerals if there is an internment, the front double door is used to bring a casket into the church, and they are all fire escape routes. During the week if we get a significant snow, please come clear walks when you can, as there are activities nearly every evening at church. Please let a Property Board member know if there are any questions.

Thank you,
The Property Board

150th Building Anniversary Committee Update

"Thank you" is such a small phrase, often said as a quick reply to a comment or action shared from a friend. Today that phrase carries a bigger meaning. "Thank you" to all the Celebration Committee members for planning and promoting the 150th Event on October 4th. Your time spent in organizing activities for that Sunday was much appreciated. "Thank you" to all those from the church members who participated in the Sunday morning service. That includes the greeters, the ushers, the musicians, and the worship service participants. "Thank you" to the parents who helped their child in painting the 'church bird houses.' "Thank you" to all those who provided food for the potluck lunch following the church service. "Thank you" to the kitchen crew who helped set up the food tables and cleaned up after. "Thank you" to those who took the 'tour to the bell.' And not to be forgotten "Thank you" to all who attended the church service and the activities following. The church was full!

We invite you back for the final 150th Celebration on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2026 at 10:00 p.m. It was 150 years ago that the first church service was held in the new church building. Be part of the past and part of the future of Spring Garden Lutheran Church and join us for worship on December 24th. You may get a holiday treat!

Don Anderson & Ruthie Sjoblom
co-chairs of the 150th Celebration Committee

Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2026

In Attendance: Marcia Dicke, Eric Lundell, Jay Olson, Pastor Tim Maybee, Ruthie Sjoblom, Maggie Wilson, Steve Haggstrom, Lynnette Sjoquist, Kelly Hovel, Financial Secretary – Pam Davis, and Treasurer – Rob Lorentz.

Call to Order: President Marcia Dicke called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. in the church social hall. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Tim.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Kelly, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2026, council meeting.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Pam's report showed a total of $130,952.69 in pledges through September 30, 2026. Rob's report showed that on September 30, 2026, the checkbook balance was $7,338.38. A motion was made by Maggie, seconded by Pastor Tim, and carried to approve the financial reports.

Pastor's Report:

Education:

Sunday School: I am having a wonderful time teaching the 4th and 5th grade class. We are learning about people in the New Testament. We also had our first Intergenerational Sunday school on September 27, which went great. Our next one will be October 18.

Adult Bible Study: We continue to learn about Marks Gospel. We will not meet on October 18, October 25, November 22, December 6, December 27, and January 3.

Confirmation:

1. Those who will be confirmed on October 25 are Amalia Dicke, Jacob Olson, Jaden Pagel, Gabby Peters, and Jillian Sjoquist.
2. Tim Anderson & Jody Sjoblom are doing great teaching the 6-8 grade class. While I am teaching the 9th grade class until Megan Nerison returns to teaching in November.
3. Confirmation Class is from 6:30-8:00, with a pizza dinner at 6:00. You are invited to join us as we learn about our faith.

Worship: We had a great celebration of our building's 150th anniversary on October 4. Thank you to all who are working on the 150 committee. They did a great job! Also thank you to Rev. Rodney Anderson for leading our prayers and communion. Thank you to Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin, Rev. Nick Fisher-Broin, and Becca Benson for leading our music It was beautiful. Thank you to Rev. Dr. Dean Aponte-Safe for a wonderful sermon. All those involved made it a joy filled day.

Upcoming Sunday/Holiday Events:

1. October 25: Reformation & Affirmation of Baptism Sunday.
2. November 1: All Saints Sunday: Remember those who have died in the last year.
3. November 22: Christ the King & Decoration Sunday: We will set up our Advent and Christmas decorations.
4. December 6: Pastor Tim & Bette's open house 3:00-6:00pm
5. December 20: Christmas Program.
6. December 24: Christmas Eve & first building use 150 anniversary. Worship is service at 10:00pm.

Building 150: Our next event will be celebrating the first worship in our building on Christmas Eve 1873.

Youth Gathering: On October 18 we will be having our first Youth Gathering meeting to see which 8th to 12th grade students are interested in going. To The ELCA Youth Gathering which takes place in Minneapolis on June 28-July 2, 2027

Pastoral Acts & Calls: In September I made 15 pastoral calls.

Pastor 2026 Vacation Dates: February 17, 19, 20, May 27-June 2, June 30-July 2 July 5-7, August 28, September 1, and December 26-31

Action Items:

1) *Authorization permitting the 150th Celebration Committee to use up to $4,500 from the Undesignated Memorial fund to cover the costs of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church building:* Rob reported that the Executive Committee met and recommended that up to $4,500.00 from the Undesignated Memorial fund could be used to fund the 150th Celebration Committee's costs of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church building. A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Maggie, and carried to authorize the 150th Celebration Committee to spend up to $4,500, which will come from the Undesignated Memorial fund, to cover the costs of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church building.

2) *Scheduling the January 2027 Annual Meeting*: A motion was made by Lynnette, seconded by Ruthie, and carried to set January 24, 2027, at 11:15 a.m. as the date and time for the Annual Congregation Meeting.

3) *Planning the upcoming Deck the Falls Event*: Ruthie discussed the plans for the November 28, 2026, Deck the Falls event. The church's booth will be in front of the Vasa Spring Garden Mutual Insurance office. Board representatives were reminded to ask their members to volunteer to help with this event.

4) *Church heating system*: Steve mentioned that the heating system is getting old and parts are getting harder to find. Better Air will come and conduct an inspection to document the condition of the equipment. Steve was told that the heating system is nearing the end of its life expectancy.

5) *Approval of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee's recommended disbursement:* Rob mentioned that, at its last meeting, the Mission Endowment Fund Committee had recommended that $1,500.00 be disbursed from the Mission Endowment Fund to cover Spring Garden's annual donation to the Guatemala Gala. A motion was made by Pastor Tim, seconded by Lynnette, and carried to approve the recommended disbursement of $1,500.00 to cover Spring Garden's annual donation to the Guatemala Gala.

6) *Authorization to use Thrivent Choice Funds to cover the cost of Sunday School Supplies:* A motion was made by Lynnette, seconded by Kelly, and approved to move $409.65 from Thrivent Choice Funds to the general fund to cover the cost of Sunday School supplies.

7) *Disposition of the Sunday School Fund*: A motion was made by Maggie, seconded by Eric, and carried to donate the $969.01 in the Sunday School Fund to Feed My Starving Children.

Board and Committee Reports:

Worship & Music–*Ruthie Sjoblom:* The following events are scheduled to be held at Spring Garden this Holiday season:

* Saturday, December 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Bells of the Bluffs handbell ensemble;
* Sunday, December 13, 2026, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Christmas in the Cabin;
* Sunday, December 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program;
* Sunday, December 24, 2026, at 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service; and
* Sunday, December 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols Service

Faith Formation–*Maggie Wilson:* Sunday schoolers painted birdhouses to celebrate the building's 150th anniversary. Thank you to the 150th committee for including the Sunday schoolers in the celebration! Confirmation youth attended Fields of Faith October 7th. There is no confirmation on October 14th.

Parish Life & Outreach–*Kaity Schroeder:* Cookbook is underway. Remind people to submit their recipes!
Church decorating will take place in November, and I took pictures last year, so we know where everything goes. We will be serving a meal. If anyone has requests for meal, please reach out. Last year we did chili and cinnamon rolls.

Church Property–*Steve Haggstrom:* The outside of the church was sprayed for bugs two weeks ago, seems like it's doing its job.
The front ceiling fan in the sanctuary is not working again; we will either fix or replace it. They are close to 40 years old.
I would like to discuss the age and condition of the boiler and furnaces at our next meeting.

Stewardship–*Lynnette Sjoquist:* After receiving the September Treasurer's Report on October 6, I convened a Stewardship Committee Meeting via email on October 6 to discuss launching a Catch-Up Campaign. Stan and Jay responded in agreement. I checked with Rob to see if there had been any significant deposits in October that would dramatically improve our balance. He agreed we should move forward with campaign. I did seek and receive Pastor Tim's support of the campaign. I announced the campaign in church on Sunday and Catch-Up envelopes were handed out to each family in attendance. We will plan to do it again next Sunday.

Missions Board–*Kelly Hovel:* No report from Missions Board.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met on October 12, 2026, to discuss pastor and staff compensation. The committee also discussed funding requests for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the church building and it recommended that the congregation council authorize the 150th Anniversary Committee to use up to $4,500 from the Undesignated Memorial fund to cover the cost of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church building.

Archives Committee: There was no report from the Archives Committee.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee: The Mission Endowment Fund Committee did not meet.

Church Calendar Review: October 25, 2026 – Affirmation of Baptism; November 1, 2026, - All Saints Sunday; November 22, 2026 – Setting up Advent & Christmas decorations; December 5, 2026 – Bells of the Bluffs; December 6, 2026 – Pastor Tim & Bette's open house; December 13, 2026 – Christmas in the Cabin; December 20, 2026 – Christmas Program; December 24, 2026 – Christmas Eve & 150th anniversary of the first use of the church building; and December 27, 2026 – Lessons and Carols Service.

Agenda for Next Meeting:

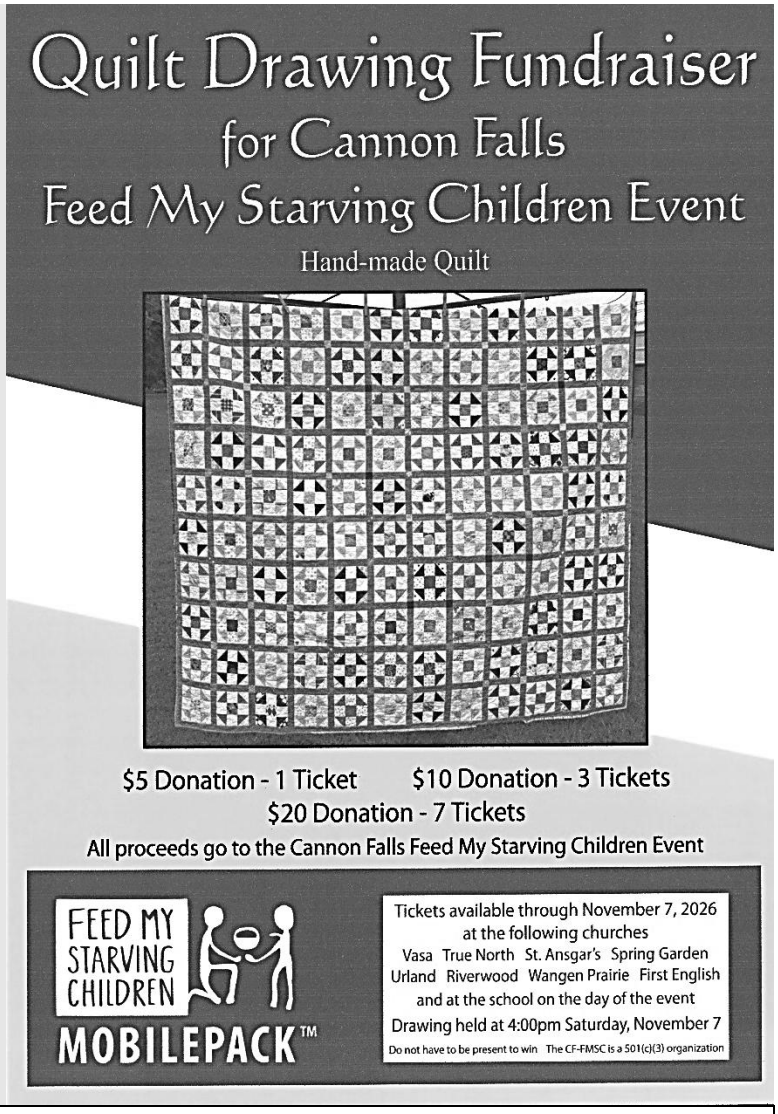
1. Elect a Treasurer and a Financial Secretary for the next year
2. Budget review
3. Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
4. Furnace

Announcements:

- Next council meeting: November 10**,** 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
- Closing prayer in November: Marcia
- Pam's Helper: October – Ruthie; November – Eric

Adjournment: The closing prayer was given by Ruthie. A motion was made by Lynnette, seconded by Jay, and carried to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

Jay Olson, Secretary ***Subject to Approval***



Volunteer spots are still available! Please sign up to help pack if you are able to!

Tickets for the quilt raffle are available through November 7th and can be purchased at the packing event.

Happy Thanksgiving!

"For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God."

(ELW 679)

The Messenger
Spring Garden Lutheran Church
November 2026

"Building a Rural Family in Christ"

Church Council Members & Staff

Pastor Tim Maybee	608-381-9661
	revtmaybee@gmail.com
President	Marcia Dicke
Vice-President	Eric Lundell
Secretary	Jay Olson
Treasurer	Rob Lorentz
Financial Secretary	Pam Davis
Worship & Music	Ruthie Sjoblom
Faith Formation	Maggie Wilson
Parish Life & Outreach	Kaity Schroeder
Church Property	Steve Haggstrom
Stewardship	Lynnette Sjoquist
Missions Board	Kelly Hovel
Music Director	David Roinas
Custodian	Jim Hoffman
Administrative Asst.	Rachel Benson

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