The Country Courier

News from The Sower's Chapel — November 2026

From Our Regional Pastor

Halloween? Did you know that Hallowe'en is a corruption of the words for "All Hallows Eve?" It's the day before All Hallows Day, otherwise known as "All Saints Day," which is commemorated by Anglicans, Catholics and Lutherans on November 1st to honor all who are believed to have gone to heaven. The earliest customs on Hallowe'en were associated with pagan ideas about a special connection between the living and dead on that day, but in the Christian world they have evolved into a day of dark revelry in anticipation of the holy day that is supposed to follow.

On All Saints Day itself many Christians attend services, visit cemeteries, pray for the dead, and observe other rituals of penitence or praise.

In the New Church we don't honor saints, nor recognize All Saints Day. And Hallowe'en has lost almost all its connection with religion of any kind, having become a silly day of costumes, eerie decorations, and treats for kids. Still, it will be useful for us to acknowledge and respect our neighbors who take All Saints Day seriously, and to have patience with those of us who prefer NOT to celebrate Hallowe'en.

The Acts and the Epistles Speaking of Christian customs, have you ever read the Acts and Epistles in the New Testament? If not, I can highly recommend them – for two important reasons:

1. There's a lot more to like than you might expect! Paul often refers to the Lord's own teachings, especially those about living in charity, and not just "faith alone."

2. And many Christians are more familiar with these books than they are with the Gospels! This means that if you want to share your faith, or answer objections based on the Epistles, you need to know how solidly these books actually support New Church teachings. In fact, they are often quoted in TCR to affirm the Heavenly Doctrine.

I've been giving classes in Bryn Athyn on these books, and it has been a delightful, eye-opening experience, with my respect for Paul only growing as a result. Try it. See what you think.

Looking Ahead Your schedule for visiting ministers will include another service by T.J. Jackson on Thanksgiving, followed that same weekend by my next visit on Sunday, the 29th. I'm scheduled to appear again on December 30th, and then, well, you may not need me for some months. Starting in January, and continuing for 3 months, Lou Synnestvedt will be preaching two Sundays in a row, staying for the full week in between and teaching or making pastoral calls during the week. This reduces the need for other visiting pastors and will also give you a sense of what it will be like to have a resident pastor again. You will continue to have Dan Calvo, T.J. Jackson and Chris serve you, and Bishop Heinrichs will definitely visit in the spring to help you celebrate the church's 40th anniversary in Sarver.

Best wishes for the time change on Nov. 1st.

–Mike Gladish (mgladish@gmail.com)

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Kids' Bible Study

On the 3rd Tuesday in October, Marion, Jack, Kyrie, Lexi and Lilly met for our Life of the Lord Bible Study. In an early exchange about what would work best for the whole group, it was determined that WEDNESDAY was the best day to meet!

Therefore, the next Life of the Lord Bible Study meeting will be on the 3rd Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 4:00 PM at my home. We will also meet regularly at the church on the first Wednesday of the month (Nov.4 at 4:00 PM) to change the sign and play a few hands of Canasta! The kids just like being together and they are past masters now at changing the sign!

Let us know if you have a special message you'd like to see on the sign. (It must be very short)

– Trish Lindsay



Decorate the Church!

On Saturday, November 28 at 9 am we will commence to decorate our lovely chapel for the Christmas season. Please join us!

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree will display the angel gift tags for local children on Sunday November 29. Please mark your selection by signing the sheet provided and return your gift by Tuesday**, December 15** to be delivered to the school for distribution to the families. Thanks to all who generously support this effort to bring some joy to children at Christmas.

From the Hospitality Committee

Please note that there is a clip board on the kitchen counter with a list of the visiting pastors and their phone numbers, with a blank slot to sign up to host them at your home or out for dinner on the weekend they are scheduled to serve us. We will update the list in the New Year, or if there are any changes in the schedule.
Let us know if you have any questions.

– Trish Lindsay

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November Calendar of Events

Sun, Nov 1:	Rev. Chris Bown
Tue, Nov 3:	2 PM - Bible Study @ A & M Browns'
Sun, Nov 8:	Rev. Nathan Cole
Tue, Nov 10:	2 PM - Bible Study @ A & M Browns' 7 pm - Board of Trustees
Sun, Nov 15:	Rev. Dan Calvo
Tue, Nov 17:	2 pm Bible Study @ A&M Browns'
Wed, Nov 18:	4 PM - Kid's Bible Study @ Trish Lindsay's
Sun, Nov 22:	Rev. Lou Synnestvedt
Thu, Nov 27	11 AM Thanksgiving Festival Service Rev. TJ Jackson
Sat, Nov 28	9 AM - Decorate the Church
Sun, Nov 29:	Rev. Mike Gladish Angel Tree in Social Area

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This year's Christmas readings are gathered around the theme, "Walk with God." We read in Micah: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (6:8). And in Isaiah: "He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths." (2:3)

Every day from December 1–26, receive an email with a reading from the Christmas story, paired with passages from the Heavenly Doctrines and a reflection to help you live with purpose.

Subscribe at newchurch.org/christmasreadings. Already subscribed? No need to sign up again.