

Always Thankful

"After all that's taken place in 2020, maybe the country should just cancel Thanksgiving this year." I overheard this being said in a grocery store recently as two people were talking about the approaching holiday. I didn't get the context prior, and I didn't stay within earshot to hear the rest of the conversation, but that statement speaks to what I'm sure many have felt the past months through now. Maybe if family can't/shouldn't gather in larger numbers, it would be best to cancel normal traditions? Or maybe it was a deeper reason for the statement. Between all this year has been including pandemic life, sicknesses, and death; between racial problems, injustices, law enforcement struggles, and protests; with ongoing political turmoil, national mistrust, cynical views of our world, and more....can we really and truly center a holiday around giving thanks? I guess in one sense, to each their own in their Thanksgiving Day approaches. But in another sense, to each Christian, there is never a canceling of giving thanks. Not just for a late November Thursday, rather for each and every day of our lives.

Just listen to the Scriptures, *"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"* (1 Thess. 5:16-18). We're to give thanks *in everything for everything*. As a matter of fact, if you do a search in the New Testament of the word "thanks", and its other forms (thanksgiving, etc.), you will find that it is the constant exhortation and expectation of God's people. Jesus was often giving thanks. Apostle Paul writes about giving thanks in almost every one of his epistles. After a while, it begins to sound like the chief activity of the Christian church (probably because it is!). Realistically, what else is there? God gives us life - physical, daily life. He provides all we daily need (not we *want*, but what we *need*). And what do then do we do? So often, we rebel against Him in sin. We go against His will and ways. And what then does He do? He keeps calling us back to Him. He keeps drawing us back to the sweet and saving Gospel message that we are forgiven. He keeps His Spirit of truth through His Word in our hearts and minds that we can confess Christ is Lord and Savior, and know that through His life, death, and rising we are saved. We don't deserve it, but we are daily shown and given unconditional love, mercy, and grace in our physical and spiritual needs.

So, what else have we to do, really, than to give thanks? What is left? All that you need is given to you. All that you really need done has been done for you. Your own guilt and sin has been punished already, and Christ bore it on the cross in your place. There is nothing left for you to do but live in God's grace and goodness and enjoy it, and give thanks.

And that life of thanksgiving then is lived in different ways. Thanksgiving is lived when you care enough to take the time, to reach out your hand to help, when you listen to others because they need someone to listen, when you pray with and pray for others because they need the comfort from and a relationship with God. Because when you are secure and thankful in God's abundance towards you, then your life confesses His goodness and not only expresses your thanks, but causes others to give God thanks on account of your living out the thanksgiving which is the life of the child of God.

Cancel Thanksgiving? To each their own. But even amid pandemic, protests, plights, or political propaganda, our giving thanks as Christians is never canceled, for Christ has canceled the debt we owe and the price we could never pay. Let our Christian thanksgiving be a daily activity for all God has done and continues to do for us, all through His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Riggert

November Elders: Gary Jensen and Bill Schumann

November Acolytes

Nov 1: Logan Stowater
Nov 8: Landan Stowater
Nov 15: Hailey Allbaugh
Nov 22: Carter Jensen
Nov 29: Cael Schipper

November Camera

Nov 7: Scot Aden
Nov 14: Bill Schumann
Nov 21: Adam Rapp
Nov 25: Burton Friedrichsen
Nov 28: Tim Hauptert



November Power Point

Nov 1: Madison Jorgensen
Nov 7: Chad Ralston
Nov 8: Destiny Jorgensen
Nov 14: Tim Stoneking
Nov 15: Austen Bosch
Nov 21: Ryan Koehlmoos
Nov 22: Aimee Kohn
Nov 25: Nanc Friedrichsen
Nov 28: Jody Hauptert
Nov 29: Gary Jensen



November Birthdays

Nov 3: Avalyn Pruett
Nov 4: Levi Rider
Nov 5: Elle Voss
Nov 6: Mike Drefke, Dutch Robbins
Nov 7: Cory Bryant, Lila Hucke, Remington Noe
Nov 9: Carl Nielsen
Nov 10: Kinzley Stoneking
Nov 11: Martin Barnes
Nov 12: Hanna Bennigsdorf, Nick Bennigsdorf, Bruce Husman
Nov 13: Randy Reeves
Nov 15: Judy Stowater, Kirk Stowater
Nov 16: Kiel Stephens
Nov 18: Doug Mummert
Nov 19: Duane Cave, Bennett Nelson, Rich Richter
Nov 20: Cael Pruett
Nov 21: Sarah Smith
Nov 22: Kyle Ruehle
Nov 23: Calvin Carver, Tim Stoneking
Nov 24: Jeannie Norris, Denny O'Bryan
Nov 25: Amanda Korleski
Nov 27: Dan Otto
Nov 29: Sandy Stowater
Nov 30: Logan Landhuis



November Anniversaries

Nov 4: Steve & Marla Essick
Nov 5: Scot & Lori Aden
Nov 14: Darrell & Donna Nelson

Voters Assembly minute highlights: (a full set of minutes may be read in the church office)

Financial report was given by Aaron Schwarz with no questions from the assembly; report accepted and approved. Dawn Ruehle reported that her and Jon audited the 2019 books and all was in good order.

Pastor Jon reported that we have 28 homebound/shut-in/nursing home members. The twelve in the nursing homes cannot be visited at this time do to Covid-19 restrictions. The homebound/shut-ins have been comfortable with a visit from Pastor in their homes. Pastor touched on what has been happening with the Visioning process and shared a timeline of what comes next. Anyone wishing to have a copy of this process should let him know and he will print one off for you. New starting soon will be a simplified bulletin for worship services along with the Children's bulletin will be offered. They will not be handed out—but will be available for anyone wanting them. Early plans are to offer extra services for the Christmas holiday to better encompass attendance and spacing.

Burton Friedrichsen reported for the Elders for four quarters, from October 2019 through September 2020, on church statistics.

Roger Seel reported for the Trustees that the bell tower remodeling project was completed. The City Council approved vacating the alley south of the church in exchange for Trinity giving them four feet of land on the southeast side to allow for residents to access Greer street. The garage will need to be cleaned out and torn down, sooner rather than later (or if someone wants it—moved). Roger was given permission to check into companies to do snow removal, (while Bob is off work) in the two parking lots and the preschool building, with members taking turns to do the side walks. It was also suggested to have a sign up sheet for members to sign up to take turns to do cleaning, vacuuming, dusting at the church (while Bob is off work).

Angela Schumann reported for the Board of Children's Ministry—a new curriculum was ordered this year that is more computer based with weekly themes. Operation Christmas Child is underway with Trinity members being asked to take the boxes home and fill them this year due to Covid-19 restrictions and not being able to have the annual packing day as a group. The spring cleaning event went well and the Board is hoping to implement this event twice a year. The Christmas program is still being worked on but the theme will be Miracle in the Manger. They will be meeting with Pastor Jon soon to discuss options for a safe program.

Tim Hauptert reported for the Preschool Board—the preschool got a new natural gas furnace installed with all new duct work. Classes are full with Miss Shannon Schwarz as Director/Teacher and Miss Ayano Loucks as the Aide/Custodian.

The 2021 proposed budget was presented by Tim Stoneking—no questions were had so it was moved and seconded to adopt and approve the budget as presented for 2021.

The 2021 new officers and committee members are as follows:

Vice President: Burton Friedrichsen

Secretary: Kasey Stowater

Assistant Treasurer: Jody Hauptert

Elders: Kent Kellen and Paul Pingel

Trustee: Mark Younie

Board of Children's Ministry: Sarah Smith

Outreach: Myla Stoneking

Stewardship: Jon Ruehle

Finance Committee: Abby Scott and Mary Scott

Ushers: Albin and Mary Carlson

TRINITY PRESCHOOL

LUTHERAN CHURCH Christ centered · child focused · love of learning

Autumn greetings from Trinity Preschool! October has been a busy month at preschool, much like all of the other months! At the beginning of October we explored with our five senses! We tasted salt and sugar, smelled different items with our eyes closed, listened to Easter eggs filled with different items, and drew pictures without our eyes. We also read through the whole story of creation and learned about how God made EVERYTHING in just 7 days by simply speaking the words! Pastor Jon came and did his best to create things with play-doh; although they were very good, the children decided they weren't nearly as perfect as God's creations! We spent a week talking about fire prevention and fire safety and we even had a firefighter from our local fire department come visit us with all of his protective gear. The students loved having two special visitors! We turned our dramatic play area into an apple orchard/pumpkin patch where the students got to play with real pumpkins, make apple pies, climb on hay bales, and drive a tractor and trailer filled with hay! We did an apple investigation to learn all about apples, an apple taste test to determine which apples were sweet and which apples were sour, and we learned that each one of us is the apple of God's eye! We celebrated Halloween with special treats, a few games, and a short Veggie Tales video!

God's blessings to you!
Miss Shannon



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

November 1- Sin Does Not Control our Lives

At the same time as the Spirit of God is working in us, the world, the flesh, and the devil – our old enemies – battle against Him for control of our souls. In Romans 6:17-18, the Apostle Paul wrote, *“But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”* Have you wholeheartedly “obeyed the teaching”? Do you feel that you are “free from sin” and a “slave to righteousness”? More than likely you do not!

Thus, we know that, although we are participants in this battle against our sinful natures, we are also victors through Christ Who has already won the battle and rescued us from death. No longer are we powerless over sin. *“Sin shall not be [our] master, because [we] are not under law, but under grace”* (Romans 6:14). As God, the holy Judge, looks at us, clothed now in Jesus’ white robe of righteousness, He no longer sees sinful creatures, but pure and blameless new creations (2 Cor. 5:17).

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to save me from a life of sin and death. Help me to live worthy of His sacrifice. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

November 8- Through Faith, We Live to Please God

The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel. We are by nature sinful. In fact, before we were called, we were dead in sin. But, *“you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses”* (Colossians 2:13). Christ, the Incarnate Word, gave us life, and, through His Gospel, the Holy Spirit gives us faith.

The Holy Spirit has enlightened us with His gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12:3, we read, *“No one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.”* Here, then, is the most basic gift of all – the saving knowledge of Jesus, our Savior. This gift comes to us through Word and Sacrament – the means of grace, with the Holy Spirit present through all. Through faith, a gift given to us through Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit works renewal in our lives. Through faith, by His grace, He changes our attitudes, desires, and thoughts so that we no longer live to please ourselves but to honor and glorify our Father in Heaven.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for rescuing me from my sinful flesh, the world, and Satan. Help me to be a witness to others. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

November 15- Made New to Serve

“Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:3-4). We now live new lives. The old is gone; the new is here. Sin no longer enslaves us. We are not bound to obey our evil natures. The Holy Spirit empowers us as new creations to offer ourselves to God as His instruments of righteousness. He equips us to do the good works that He has *“prepared in advance for us to do”* (Ephesians 2:10).

Having put away the sinful flesh and having put on Christ by God’s grace, we are freed, empowered, and equipped to be the stewards God has created us to be. The Holy Spirit builds faith in us and works renewal in our lives, so that we are no longer slaves to sin but alive in Christ. As we tap into God’s rich supply of His sanctifying power, we are enabled to live lives of service and generosity.

Prayer: Dear Father, help me to be more like You. Grant me a serving and giving heart. Amen.

November 22- Blessings on your Thanksgiving

During Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many blessings God has given to us. The question we should be asking is, “How do we begin to thank God for all that He has done and continues to do for us?” High on our lists of things for which to thank our Heavenly Father should be our new lives in Christ. In spite of our sinful ways, God demonstrated His awesome love for us by sending His only Son to the Cross on our behalf. We certainly will also thank Him for our families as well as our health and material blessings. How blessed we are that God provides for all we need to sustain our lives, and, through faith He provides, He gives us life forever with Him!

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, forgive me when I take for granted all the blessings You give me. Forgive me for my selfishness and thoughtlessness. Give me a heart of gratitude and help me to share with others some of what You’ve given me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9a Worship/HC 10a BC & SS 11a Elders meet	2 Pastor Jon's Day off	3	4 5:45p Confirmation classes (7th/8th only- NO 6th grade class)	5	6 9a Bible study	7 5:30p Worship
8 9a Worship 10a BC & SS	9 Pastor Jon's Day off	10	11 5:45p Confirmation classes	12	13 9a Bible study	14 5:30p Worship/HC
15 9a Worship/HC 10a BC & SS	16 Pastor Jon's Day off	17 6:45p Preschool Board meets	18 5:45p Confirmation classes	19 December newsletter and calendar items due in church office	20 9a Bible study	21 5:30p Worship
22 9a Worship 10a BC & SS	23 Pastor Jon's Day off	24	25 6:30p Thanksgiving Eve Worship/ HC	26 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>  Office Closed	27 <u>NO Bible study</u>	28 5:30p Worship
29 9a Worship 10a BC & SS	30 Pastor Jon's Day off					