

GOOD NEWS

Volume 36, Number 11

November 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- November Bible Studies
- Call Committee update
- Council Nominations
- Caring & Sharing
- Thanksgiving Dinner Drive
- Thanksgiving Eve Celebration
- Preschool News
- Youth Overnight Party

The Rites of Fall

By Rev. William C. Plautz

Bow hunting has been underway for over a month. Bowling leagues have been going for a number of weeks while golf leagues have been finished about the same amount of time. Any road trips to see the fall colors are finished as that time has passed.

So it must be fall. The average temperatures are dropping; we know what's coming. (I can't even bring myself to type the word.)

In the midst of all this season has to offer—and fall is a special season—among out activities do we include gratitude? I know a couple of presidents helped bring about the designated Thanksgiving Day, but I'm talking about every day. Does your heart and life express gratitude for all of God's wonderful gifts?

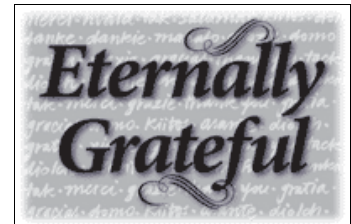
As the Israelites were about to enter the land of Canaan as God has promised their father Abraham, they would find houses, fields, and vineyards ready to be occupied and used. They would expend no personal energy to get it; it was all provided by the Lord God.

When that happens, though, there is a temp-

tation to become "fat", lazy, and ungrateful. Thus God called on them to REMEMBER... remember who has supplied them with such gracious gifts.

So each day we are called on to remember...the gift of His Son Jesus for our sins... the promise of eternal life and joy that has no end...the assurance of His presence through every "storm" of life...food, clothing, shelter, and the basic needs of life. All amazing gifts from a loving God who asks for nothing more or less than hearts that are filled with gratitude, one that expresses itself in words and deeds.

Enjoy the "rites of fall". And see to it that by God's grace the rite that is at the top of your list is to give thanks.



Christian Humor *Light-hearted humor with a spiritual lesson*

Someone said, "The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for."

Studies have been done which show how much time we spend during our life sitting at stoplights, sleeping, eating, etc. They also have the numbers as to how long we wait in lines at stores.

There is some waiting that is

unavoidable. We need the prescription or groceries or customer service. The question is: How long will we wait?

In Ps. 27, David wrote, *Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.* While waiting often makes us impatient, when we wait for the Lord we are placing

ourselves in His hands and under His will. By doing so we acknowledge He knows best and will work out in our lives what is pleasing to Him.

Few things are worth waiting for—Jesus is one of them!

Thanksgiving: The Forgotten Holiday

By Candy Arrington—*Guest Writer*

“Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise Your glorious name.”

1 Chronicles 29:13

Sandwiched somewhere between Halloween and Christmas is a Thursday holiday that is slowly becoming more miniscule in the minds of millions of Americans – Thanksgiving. If you search hard, you might find one small section of Thanksgiving cards, autumn decorations, and a turkey platter amid the aisles and miles of Halloween costumes, Christmas decorations, and toys. For some, Thanksgiving is a day to get a list together prior to a day of marathon Christmas shopping. Somehow our perception of Thanksgiving Day has gone askew. We've forgotten the reason for celebration that first Thanksgiving. Gratitude for survival!

Historically we think of Thanksgiving as a time of

feasting for the Pilgrims and Indians.

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had been in America less than a year. During those months, over half their original population died from disease or starvation. The Pilgrims hosted the first feast not to try out their latest recipes, but to celebrate life with their Indian friends and give thanks to God for His provision in difficult circumstances.

Perhaps you'd like to redirect your family toward gratitude this year. Just as many enlist the help of an advent wreath to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth in December, focus on thanks-giving this November by doing the following:

Write Bible verses that name the attributes of God on fruit-shaped cut-outs. Place them in a basket or cornucopia. During a time of family devotions or at a meal, have each family member select a fruit from the basket and read the verse aloud. Then discuss ways your family has experienced each of God's qualities.

Think about reasons for ingratitude. Most of us are incredibly blessed, yet we find reasons to complain. This week, any time family members complain about something, have them place money in a jar. Your family can decide the amount. Then at the end of the week, donate the money to the soup kitchen or mobile meals to help with Thanksgiving meals.

Think of someone you love and appreciate, but rarely see. Make plans to call, send a card, or visit that person. Find out if there is a special need, pray with the person, and provide materially or with an act of service.

Focus on praising God. Let each family member select a praise chorus or hymn. Sing a different one at each meal instead of saying a blessing. Thank God for material provision, physical health, spiritual blessings, our country, our church, and family.

These are just a few ideas to help you get started. Use your creativity to come up with others and enjoy making Thanksgiving a holiday to remember.

November Bible Studies

Sunday School

Kids ages 3—grade 8 are invited to grow in God's word everyday Sunday morning at 9am.

Monday Aft Bible Class

Consider joining this group on Monday's at 2:30pm in October as they "Weave Christ" into your life, through study of His word. Leader: Sue Smith

Tuesday Morn Study

Class meets Tuesday's at 6:30am at the Chippewa Family Restaurant. Bring your Bible and your appetite (cost of the meal is on your own). Topic: Romans Led by Pastor Plautz.

Junior Instruction (gr.7 & 8)

Class is offered Wednesday's at 7pm (immediately following worship) in the sanctuary. Class runs until 8:15pm.

High School Bible class

Come Sunday's at 9am to Bible class with leader, Sue Smith. Seek answers to some tough questions on current issues...through the study of His word.

Thursday Morn Bible Class

Come to class Thursday mornings at 9:30am. Topic: Psalms; Leader: Patricia Smith; Enjoy the fellowship.

Thursday Eve Women's Study

Would you like to get into the "heart of Jesus"? Study women in the gospel of Luke on Thursday's at 6pm and find your way! Leader: Laura Hills

SACRED MARRIAGE Couples Group

What if God designed marriage to make us holy and not just happy? Join us for this 6 week Focus on the Family recommended DVD study to discover how respecting your partner, forgiving and accepting forgiveness, engaging in intimacy, and building a history with your spouse can release the nature of Christ in your life! "This should be your first marriage series DVD to have the heart to change, not just techniques." Our fifth session is Sunday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be announced. We'd love to have you join our group as we work on strengthening our marriages while enjoying the hospitality of new friends. For questions, or to RSVP, please call Lynn at 715-726-1148 or 379-9807.



Congregational News

Call Team Update

A special voter's meeting has been scheduled for Monday, November 28 at 7pm to consider the recommendation of the Faith Lutheran Call team for the Director of Family/Youth Ministry position. The team has been faithfully pursuing the charge given them by our congregation and will be ready to move to the next phase of the process. We have one more visit by a candidate planned for November 19-20. Requirements in our constitution require a minimum of 2 weeks notice to the congregation of a special voter's meeting. We believe this topic is important enough that it warrants a separate meeting and are taking the steps to schedule this meeting to fit within the guidelines. Please continue to keep the Call Team, the candidates and the future of our congregation in your prayers.

Nominations for Council

We are asking for nominations for the Mission and Ministry council. If you would like to serve in this capacity or know of someone you would like to recommend, please call Bill Musser 726.1148 or Pam Pfankuch 723.7124. Deadline is November 20.

Furnace Fund

Work has been completed on the new furnace/boiler system being installed in our church. We would appreciate your support of this project. Simply designate offerings to the "Furnace Fund".

Preschool News

This month the students will be learning the letters "F, G & H". A field trip to Mega Foods grocery store is planned and festivities geared to Thanksgiving will be celebrated. The students continue to grow by learning socialization skills. Please pray for our preschool children and their families that they would learn about Jesus and seek Him in their life.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE!

The weekly Messenger, monthly Newsletter, and church photo directory schedule are available for viewing at www.faithlutheranconf.org.

Caring & Sharing

If you're retired or an active senior, then this event is for you! Come Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 11am to worship, a dinner and entertainment sponsored by our Women of Faith. Just sign-up in the narthex.

Thanksgiving Dinner Drive

We are offering Thanksgiving Dinner boxes to folks who might otherwise go without this year. A sign-up sheet for the various items needed is in the narthex. Simply sign the sheet if you can donate food items or money towards this project. Items needed are: frozen turkeys, bags of potatoes, stuffing mixes, cans of cranberry sauce, green beans and heat & serve buns. Turkey meal packages will then be boxed and delivered the week before Thanksgiving. Deadline to donate is Friday, November 18. Donations will be submitted to the Chippewa County Human Services. Please help us share God's blessing with others in our community.

Thanksgiving Eve Celebration

You are invited to a Thanksgiving Celebration supper on Wednesday, November 23 at 5pm. A light supper with dessert will be served. A free-will offering will be gathered. Come and enjoy the fellowship of thanksgiving to our Lord. Thanksgiving eve worship will follow at 6pm.

Women of Faith

Ladies met in October and made plans for Caring & Sharing, the Christmas Bazaar and noodle-making. The Christmas bazaar is scheduled for Dec. 3. The next meeting is November 15 at 7pm. Ladies will vote for charities to receive donations and mite offerings will be gathered. Hostesses are: Bea Newman, Deb Bowe and Barb Glamann. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Choir

Like to sing? Choir rehearsals are Wednesday, Nov. 2 & 16 at 7pm. Share your talents!

Did you know?

As of October 1, 2011 funds of \$5924 have been donated from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" to our congregation. We praise & thank God for this blessing!

Youth Activities

Grades 5 & 6 – Wednesday's at 7:15pm in the youth room (except Nov. 23)
Grades 7-12 – Wednesday's at 8:15pm in the youth room (except Nov. 23)

ATTN: YOUTH
It's an Overnight Party!!!!
Saturday, November 5, 2011
Beginning 6 p.m. –
Ending Sunday Morning
Faith Lutheran Church
Bring your favorite video games,
board games, music!!
Have a favorite craft or hobby???
Bring it along!!!
Favorite movie ??? Bring it
along!!!
We will have some crafts, games,
etc. there, too!!!!
Hope you can make it!!!!
If you have any questions, please
call Pam Johnson – 715-726-2224

Come out and enjoy the activities this group has to offer!

Thank you!

† Dear friends and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ,
I want to thank all of you for the kind words, cards, and gifts in honor of my 25 years as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church. I am deeply touched by the outpouring of love from all of you. The senior disciples told me when I was a younger man that time quickens when one gets older. Those 25 years have flown by, so to speak; 25 years of God's grace and love have been showered upon me through you. May God continue to bless you and me in every way as we live to love and serve our Father God who loves and serves us in His Son Jesus. -Pastor Plautz

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever.

Psalm 107:1



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

1-Mason Chittendon
2-Ernest Peterson
3-Dawson Dubberke, Marah Harings, Zachary Slowiak
5-Aiyana Eliason, Brett Schaefer
6-Rose Oyer, Johnathan Strand
7-Tracy Haller
8-Craig Hoepner
9-Christopher Plautz
10-Karlene Allen, John Carlson, Allison Ford
11-Audrey Andersen, Bill Miller, Kathleen Turner, Robert Yauch
13-James Butak, Kristi Webb
15-Eden Nelson, Barbara Wucherpfennig
16-Charlotte Kern
17-Sandra Chaussee, Debra Powell
18-Austin Badaluco, Randy Missfeldt

19-Amanda Nelson
20-Sarah Schultz
22-Randy Ericksen
23-Dillon Entenmann, Jeffrey Goettl
24-Elizabeth Dallas
25-Brenda Isenberger
26-Jenna Jaquish, Bryon Petz, Grace Tiry
27-Dale Krebs, Melissa Powell
28-Gordon Buttenhoff
29-Mark Erickson, Angela Wedemeyer
30-Cody Juedes, Carla Kleinheinz, Lori Petska

Happy Anniversary!

1-William & Lynn Musser
2-Randy & Robyn Nelson
8-Adam & Bridget Ericksen
14-James & Ruth Clark



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