



Pastor's Perspective November 2011

Thanksgiving Day will soon be here. We will be recalling the story of those early Calvinists who came to North America in 1620. Teachers will relate the story of the “first Thanksgiving” either in its traditional form in which the Pilgrims are the heroes or in its 1990’s version in which the Pilgrims are the enemies. In any case, Thanksgiving Day is a part of our national calendar and thanksgiving is a part of our national character.

Thanksgiving is a part of our theology as well. Our Reformed faith speaks of Christian life in three parts. One of the great statements of Christian theology asks the question:

How many things must you know that you may live and die in the blessedness of the comfort [of belonging completely to Jesus Christ]?

and the answer is given:

Three. First, the greatness of my sin and wretchedness. Second, how I am freed from all my sins and their wretched consequences. Third, what gratitude I owe to God for such redemption.

These three things have been called “guilt, grace, and gratitude.” First, we must know that we are sinners. No one is above sin. The Bible says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Second we must know that we are set from our sins and their “wretched consequences” only by God’s gift of salvation, by grace. “Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Finally, we must know that as those whom God has saved, we must show gratitude in all aspects of life. “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” “Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks.”

We ought to live lives characterized by thanksgiving, not only on the last Thursday in November but every day. How does one live a life a gratitude? I am reminded of a story I heard long ago that shows gratitude in action.

A man was driving his car in a snowstorm at night. The snow was coming down so thickly that he could hardly see beyond his headlights. He was far from the main road and traveling in a lonely, deserted part of the country. There were no lights visible anywhere. No houses. No businesses.

As he made his way slowly along, hardly able to see, the road suddenly made a sharp turn to the left. Seeing the turn too late, the man slammed on his brakes but was unable to stop or negotiate the turn. He skidded across the road and into the ditch on the other side. His car came to rest upright, but in the deep snow of the ditch, he was unable to drive his car back to road. He tried rocking the car, but to no avail. And he had no sand or shovel to use to free the car. Unable to do anything else, the man sat in his car and waited. He ran the engine the recommended ten minutes each hour and waited. Finally after two hours, he saw headlights in the distance. They drew closer and closer until finally another car came to a stop next to his. The other driver got out and approached the man’s car. Finding the man all right, but with his car stuck, the stranger said, “I have a rope in the trunk. I’ll connect it between our cars and pull you out.” And that is what the stranger did. After some effort, the man’s car was back on the road and ready to go.

The man got out and went to the stranger who was now untying the rope he had used to pull the car out. “How can I thank you?” asked the man. “Can I give you some money?”

The stranger shook his head. “No money, please,” said the stranger. “I’ll tell you what. If you really want to thank me, *go and buy a rope and put it in your trunk, and when you see someone in the ditch, pull them out.*”

That’s how God wants us to show gratitude for his love. “Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” That is real Thanksgiving.

Shalom,

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH SESSION MEETING

- Clerk Craig Faulkner reported on Attendance and One Baptism.
- Pastor Stan gave an update of his activities.
- Ann Camp gave an update for the Calling and Membership committee activities. Ann reported the committee have planned to provide a luncheon for the Children Christmas program practice day December 17. They also plan to distribute goodies to the shut-in and care packages to college students.
- Lynn Curtis gave a report of Fellowship activities planned. An update on the upcoming Annual Turkey Supper was given.
- Finance Committee update was given by Drew Wilkin. Drew reported on the monthly income and expenses and how pledging was going.
- Nominating Report was given by Craig Faulkner. They are looking to replace 3 elders, one member of the nominating committee and one member of the auditing committee.
- Nurture committee report was given by Teresa Ray. Teresa reported that the Sunday School kids would be playing their new bell in church on October 23. The children would begin practicing for Christmas program and will be practicing on Saturday December 17, 2011.
- Outreach committee report was given by Todd Gravert. The committee will be collecting gentle used winter clothing to donate to the Salvation Army and Benevolence Society.
- Properties Committee report was given by Jim Balk.
- Webmaster Lisa Colgan gave a report including the number "hits" the church was getting on its web site.
- Worship Committee update was given by Bill Wilkin. The farewell for Pastor Stan and Sylvia will be held on December 4th. November 27 the High School youth will lead worship
- Craig Faulkner will be the Elder/Commissioner to the Blackhawk Presbytery Meeting November 8 at Stronghold.

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS AND FESTIVALS SCRIPTURE

November 6 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	November 13 Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123:1-4 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	November 20 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100:1-5 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	November 27 (1st Sunday of Advent) Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
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SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers

Drew and Jackie Wilkin
Todd and Sarah Gravert

Greeters

November 6 Ken and Jan Ottens
November 13 Available
November 20 Odetta Swanson and Ruth Bos
November 27 Available



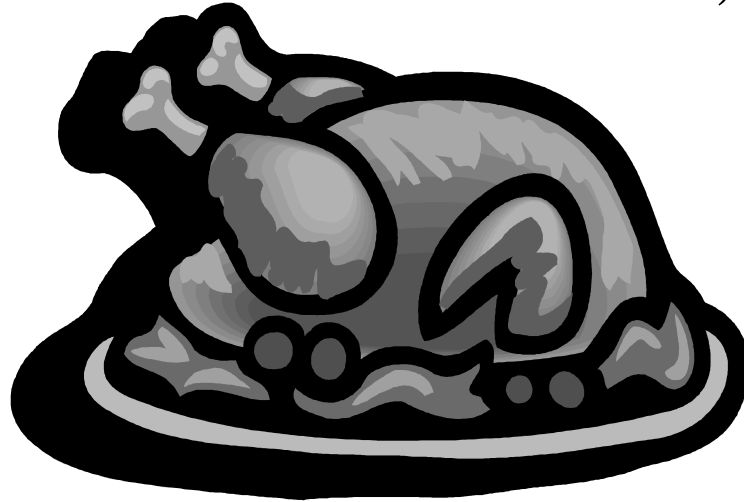
JAN STUART'S PANTRY CORNER MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Canned Vegetable Soup
Canned Tomato Soup
Canned Cream of Mushroom Soup



Annual Turkey Supper

NOVEMBER 13, 2011



We have posted the sign-up sheets requesting contributions of both food articles and your time toward preparation of the 2011 Annual Turkey Supper. This annual congregational fundraiser has always created a joyful beehive of activity for all of us and has been one of our most profitable fundraisers during the year. In the past our congregation has faithfully come forward with very generous donations of cash, provisions, and the sharing of their time to prepare and serve the supper. **For your continuous support we send a resounding THANK YOU!** We trust that we can again join together in 2011 to have a very delicious and successful meal.

Your Fellowship Committee is taking the leadership role in guiding us through another Annual Turkey Supper. However, as always, we definitely need your help in order to make this happen.

Join us by.....

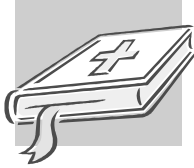
- **Donating cash for the purchase of needed provisions purchased in bulk quantities**
- **Donating some of the other listed provisions to make the dinner**
- **Being a worker-bee, donating your time and talents when available over the 4-day dinner preparation period.**

We will also start selling tickets for the turkey supper on October 9th. The ticket price will be the same as last year; \$8.00 for Adults and \$4.00 for children ages 5 through 12.

Gobble...Gobble,
The Fellowship Committee

Sunday School News!

Middle School and High School classes: 10:30-11:15AM. Join Sylvia or Bill!



Pre-school and Elementary Schedule for November:

November 6th class at 10:30-11:15

November 13th – Music class with April, they will practice for the following week

November 20th – Sing during the service - Class this day will start at 10:15

November 27th – Movie 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Parents:

Please have your Sunday School registration forms filled out and turned in.

Please have your children to church 15 minutes early on November 20th.

Please remember to come to the room and pick up your children.

If you have any question please don't hesitate to contact me: 563-321-3657 or lynn.richards@dybb.com

Thank you, Lynn Richards

