

Grace Messenger

November 2021



PASTOR'S REFLECTION

For the last two days I have been immersed in creating and crafting our theme and services for Advent. It's not yet Halloween, but such is the schedule of a pastor. Advent needs to be get wrapped up. Our ministry teams need to know what is coming. Advent services don't just quickly come together.

But this reflection isn't about Advent. That's the theme for next month. And it isn't about Halloween or Reformation Sunday. Those were last month's themes. What is the theme for this month? Oh, yes! Thanksgiving. In my rush to get to Advent, I have overlooked Thanksgiving.

Sound familiar? Am I alone in that error of omission?

So, I sit here, convicted that I, like so many others through the ages, have neglected taking time to focus on Thanksgiving. The nine lepers were guilty of that (Luke 17:11-19). King Hezekiah was too (2 Chronicles 32:25-27). So common is this fault that God describes a whole generation of people with these words: "Although they knew God, they did not honor Him or give thanks to Him." (Romans 1:21). Ouch.

What really makes me feel guilty is that I can quickly identify so many things for which thanksgiving is due. God has been incredibly gracious to me personally and to our congregation this year. My list of blessings could be weighed by the ton, not just numbered one-by-one.

Yes, Advent is quickly coming. Yes, the pundits all tell us to get our shopping done early so we don't encounter supply chain issues. Yes, Christmas travel costs are lower if we plan now. All true. And all easily distracting and consuming.

But this is the month to give thanks. Could we put on the brakes for a minute and do that? Right now, as you read these words, could you please pause to express your gratitude to God for all of His blessings?

Thanks for doing that. Blessings!



SERVING GOD IN THE CHOIR

Maxine Shroyer was honored for 60 years of faithful service in the Grace Sanctuary Choir. Maxine is a very dedicated choir member and has been singing in the choir since she joined as a teenager in 1961. When the choir is scheduled to rehearse or sing during services or in the community, you'll see Maxine in the soprano section. Thank you, Maxine for continuing to share your God-given talents in the Grace Choir. Thanks be to God for those who share His gift of music in our choirs here at Grace.



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

THERE WILL BE NO CONTEMPORARY SERVICE AT 10:45 A.M.

Men and Women of Grace who have entered the Church Triumphant during the past 12 months are:

Psalm 116:15

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants

Mary Margaret Neher	11/19/20	Bonita Holl	05/09/21
M. Dwain Bartley	11/28/20	Mary Kuhlwein	05/25/21
Robert "Bob" Dunn	11/30/20	Patricia "Pat" Kelly	06/17/21
Rachel Egger	12/05/20	Benjamin "Ben" Martin	06/19/21
Jack P. Reynard	12/21/20	Donald Fain	07/16/21
Ed Urbanek	01/31/21	Betsy Moell	07/20/21
Bernice Stevens	02/01/21	Lenora Mae "Jackie" Castle	07/21/21
Christopher Phillips	02/04/21	Sophie Jump	08/12/21
Allan "Al" Evans	02/16/21	Miriam "Gena" Rousculp	08/12/21
Beth Reynard Wilson	03/24/21	Donald Lothamer	08/21/21
Marcia Haddix	04/05/21	Susan Truchses	09/08/21

Members who entered the Church Militant through Holy Baptism during the past 12 months are:

Everett Galaska	12/27/20
Corey Nawman	04/06/21
Dawn Shomrock	04/11/21
Cecil Franz	06/13/21

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

NOVEMBER 21, 2021 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We meet as a congregation at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, November 21, 2021. Your presence and participation is very important to the present and future of Grace. Our agenda includes: election of our 2022 Church Council, adoption of our 2022 Ministry Plan, and election of a Endowment Committee member.

2022 Council Nominees
Kim Bachman, Kim Fitzgerald, Amy Fraker
Steve Garrett, Roger Bentz,

2022 Endowment Committee Nominees
Carol Carpenter, Phil Teusink

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 7:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER OUTREACH CORNER



St John's Food Pantry: November is one of our months to serve at the Food Pantry on Wednesday mornings. If you are interested in helping to distribute food, please contact Judy Fredrich at 937-925-1177. They could also use any kind of loaf bread and small pastries like Little Debbie's, hand held fruit pies, donuts etc. Please place items in St. John's grocery cart November 16, 2021



Snow-venber Coat Drive: Grace's annual coat drive will focus on local kids in need again this year. We will be collecting new or gently used coats for our friends at Snowhill School, H.O.P.E. Ministries and Children's Rescue Center. Please watch for coat-shaped tags in the Narthex in early November to help match up a specific coat for a specific need or child. PLEASE keep the tags with the coat donated. Coats due back by November 28th.



Feeding the Community

Baskets of Grace (formerly Christmas Food Baskets): Our team will be collecting food items to prepare boxes and deliver to needy families for Thanksgiving time this year. Please watch the Narthex for cards labeled with food items needed to fill the boxes/baskets and return by November 21st. Please only bring items identified on the cards. Please Contact Kristi Leeth or Sandy Thompson with any questions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please return boxes to Grace by Sunday, November 14

After being dropped off at Grace, these boxes will make the long journey overseas, traveling by any means necessary—boat, plane, train and even elephant—until they reach the hands of children in need.

Questions? Please call Agnes Smoot 937-964-3194



SPRINGFIELD MANOR DONATIONS

The Agape Guild would like donations of men's and women's socks and body wash/gel for the residents of Springfield Manor. The items will be given to the residents for Christmas. Please have donations turned in by December 5, 2021. Contact Lori Fain for more information.

Child of Promise

2021 Advent Devotional

"The birth of the Savior is celebrated again this year in Child of Promise, a joyful look at the miracle of Jesus' birth. From the beginning, foretold in Genesis and proclaimed throughout the Old Testament, God announced the coming Messiah to a wayward world. In Jesus Christ, that promise was fulfilled."- Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries Read, listen, e-mail, or print at lhm.org/advent also available November 23, 2021 in the church narthex.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Grace



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